

## 100m total plus economy

measures are designed to stimulate by £2,500m in a full year. They output by 1 per cent in the next year, by an estimated 7p for 20. About 4000 jobs will be created, the borrowing requirement forecast will be within the limit set by the letter to the IMF.

## in repayment

1000m repayment of Britain's loan on the International Monetary Fund in addition to the £1,000m announced in January and recently British Government bond issue is the New York market for a total

## cigarettes

ther 4 duty on cigarettes with a tax of 11p more will be increased, duty by an estimated 7p for 20. About 4000 jobs will be created, the borrowing requirement forecast will be within the limit set by the letter to the IMF.

## meals pegged

in school meals proposed for this or take place in the Government's programme of the EEC subsidy to provide free milk for pupils Total cost: £68m.

## enefit up £4

efit rate, raised this month, raised in April next year, it will rise by 70p to £3 in 5 year. The premium for the first 1000 families will be doubled in November. Cost: an extra £165m.

## r hospitals

is to be spent to get new hospitals out of hospital waiting lists, elderly and handicapped and on extra 4000 beds. The Government is to be spent on school and on retraining teachers, stories and coastal defence work extra £20m.

## ash for jails

ids are to be made available for police, magistrates' courts and for home and factory

## tion tax held

been made in corporation tax and relief scheme introduced in continued until such time as an and is agreed.

## pr farmers

be allowed to average their x purposes over two years when x tenths or more from one year tel owners will get an initial capital fifth on any spending on building hotels with 10 or more bedrooms.

## ice curbed

urb tax avoidance by certain leading in commodity futures is to be backdated to April 6, 1976, that date when the intention to unannounced in Parliament.

## ices raised

total tax allowances and a lower e band on the first £750 of e will mean that individuals could to £1.58 a week. The extra cash, April 6, should reach pay packets the higher allowances mean that people will pay income tax 150m. The threshold for the 40 ate has been raised from 10 taxable income.

## elderly

ns rise in November to £1.20 couples and £1.50 for single people. allowances for single people over 65 40 and by £100 for married couples. nit for people over 65 is raised 000.

## irms helped

l companies includes raising of n tax profits limit by £10,000 a increase to the limit for marginal 00 to £65,000. The value-added tax mit rises from £5,000 a year to

## p to 7%

England Minimum Lending Rate 6 1/2 per cent to 7 1/2 per cent from

report, pages 6 and 7; David 16; Leading article, 17; there on monetary targets, forecasts and profit-sharing, pages 24

## al pullback raelis

have pulled back from forts in the eastern part of anion, handing over control their posts to United Nations forces. However, the extent ival is in question. Correspondent Israeli troops still outside the village of pite earlier declarations that go

## own to explain

Brown, the United States ury, is to pay a surprise 10 to explain America's to explanation for the post-shipment of production on bomb. Mr Brown had months trying to persuade West Germany to accept the

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# THE TIMES

## Mr Healey aims tax cuts chiefly at lower paid

The Chancellor's Budget proposals yesterday were dominated by income tax cuts of £2,400m although he made no change in the standard rate. The cuts and other measures should give the economy a stimulus

## Unions urged to limit pay demands

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Some £2,400m of income tax cuts dominated the Budget presented to the Commons yesterday by Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Overall stimulus to the economy will be about £2,500m in a full year.

Mr Healey also announced a range of increased family support measures, as well as relief for small businesses and easing of capital gains taxes. There will be an increase in Minimum Lending Rate from 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 per cent.

There is to be no reduction in the standard rate of income tax; that apparently was never in Mr Healey's mind. He wanted to concentrate help for those at the bottom of the tax scales, perhaps with an eye to the next election.

However, if relief is proportionately greater for those being freed from the so-called "poverty trap", the overall "giveaway" turned out less than many Tories and Labour MPs wanted, even if there seemed to be a little for everybody.

The success of the Budget's stated objectives—stimulating demand, and hence new jobs, while holding down inflation—was critically conditioned by the need for even greater wage restraint next year than this.

Indeed, Mr Healey suggested the objectives might be lost unless earnings increases next year were kept to about half this year's what ever they turned out to be. He said he would discuss the matter with the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry.

## Election-deep tax cuts, Mrs Thatcher scoffs

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a high-speed impromptu response to Mr Healey's rather calm delivery, remarked that the Chancellor's conversion to tax cuts was "only election-deep". And she promised, "we shall deal with them accordingly."

Mr Healey is privately scornful about the idea that yesterday's Budget was the last before a general election. The suggestion is heard that there may be more stimulus after the Western nations summit in Bonn in July, assuming that the "mutually supportive action" begun by Mr Callaghan's Government is going well.

But senior Tories suspect that Mr Healey may have reignited inflation, forcing Mr Callaghan towards an autumn election.

The more immediate question is whether the Government can retain Liberal support for the passage of the Budget measures through the Commons. First indications are that the Liberals are satisfied that they have obtained two thirds of what they were asking. But they plan to press for further income-tax concessions for the higher-paid.

Some adjustment would be accepted by Mr Healey, but it is clear that neither he nor the Prime Minister would accept, as it is put, a gaping hole being torn in the Finance Bill. That would bring an immediate election; it is said.

Concluding his thirteenth Budget, Mr Healey commented that he did not for once call for any sacrifice. That was superficial, since he had just claimed that his measures, taken with those begun as the first phase last October, would raise living standards by nearly 20 per cent for the married man with two children earning £75 a week. The married man on £50 a week would be 7 1/2 per cent better off.

His calculations, were based on all adjustments required to cope with recent increases in national insurance contributions, and substitution of child benefit payments for child tax allowances.

## Increasing incentives is Chancellor's aim

The distribution of the tax cuts, Mr Healey said, tried to meet his objective "to increase the incentive for greater effort and to promote social justice."

He had chosen to concentrate on lowering the rate at which people became liable to tax, admitting "It is indeed the highest in the world". Noting, too, that many of the low-paid are little better off in work than on the dole, he announced a new low band rate of 25 per cent on the first £750 of taxable income.

That meant that some four million of the low-paid would no longer pay tax at the basic rate of 34 per cent. Mr Healey hoped that the lower rate could be further extended in the future.

In a further tax cut he proposed new increases in personal allowances: up £50 to £1,535 for the married and single parent; up £40 to £985 for single people and working wives.

That, Mr Healey said, would also help the transition to the child benefit payment scheme. That benefit was being raised from the present £2.30 per child to £3 next November and to £4 in April, 1979.

He also proposes to increase the age allowance for the working retired by £100 for the married, to £2,075; and by £50 to £1,300 for single people.

The qualifying income ceiling was also raised from £3,500 to £4,000.

Continued on page 4, col 2



Mr Healey, with his wife, leaving 11 Downing Street to present his Budget.

Families with children—Married couple with 2 children not over 11—net weekly income									
Net weekly income in 1977/78					Net weekly income in 1978/79 including proposed tax changes				
Weekly earnings	Child benefit	Income tax	Nat ins	Net income	Weekly earnings	Child benefit	Income tax	Nat ins	Net income
30.00	2.50	0.00	1.73	30.77	4.80	0.00	1.95		32.65
35.00	2.50	0.00	2.01	35.49	4.80	0.40	2.27		36.93
40.00	2.50	1.68	2.30	38.52	4.60	1.65	2.60		40.35
50.00	2.50	5.09	2.87	44.54	4.60	4.35	3.25		47.00
60.00	2.50	8.49	3.45	50.56	4.60	7.75	3.90		52.95
70.00	2.50	11.89	4.03	56.58	4.60	11.15	4.55		58.90
80.00	2.50	15.29	4.60	62.61	4.60	14.55	5.20		64.85
90.00	2.50	18.69	5.17	68.64	4.60	17.95	5.85		70.80
100.00	2.50	22.09	5.75	74.66	4.60	21.35	6.50		76.75
120.00	2.50	28.89	6.04	87.57	4.60	28.15	7.80		89.65
140.00	2.50	35.69	6.04	100.77	4.60	34.95	7.80		101.85
160.00	2.50	43.06	6.04	113.40	4.60	41.75	7.80		115.05

Net income is earnings, less tax and national insurance contributions, plus child benefit. It does not include any means-tested benefit.

Single parent families have the same net weekly income as married couples on the same weekly earnings except that a single family receives £0.50 more child benefit a week in 1977/78 and £1.00 extra a week from April 1979.

Child benefit: this table does not take account of the interim increase in child benefit of £1.40 a week (70p a child), due next November.

## Stimulus expected to increase economic growth to 3% a year

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor's tax cuts will inject an extra £2,000m during the financial year 1978-79 and £2,500m in a full year. The Treasury estimates that the measures will boost growth by about 0.75 per cent to 3 per cent for the period from the first half of 1978 to the first half of 1979. That growth rate is expected to be enough to reduce unemployment, but the scale of the reduction from its present level of 1,400,000 is not specified. Living standards are expected to go on rising, with consumer's spending going up 4 per cent in the year to mid-1979.

Treasury forecasts published with the Budget show a sharp and depressing revision downwards in the size of the balance of payments surplus expected this year, which has been halved to £750m. The forecast for 1979 is even gloomier, with rising imports and slowly growing exports expected to reduce the current account surplus to £250m in the first half of the year. The forecast is more pessimistic than that implied by the promises made to the International Monetary Fund in 1976.

The authorities do not explain the assumption about sterling's exchange rate on which they base their forecasts, but it seems that they are assuming that the pound might fall in the year ahead.

The only overt guidance on which it is possible to estimate likely movements in the exchange rate is the assumption that there is an improvement in competitiveness as measured by the index of unit labour

Bands of Taxable Income		Bands of Investment Income	
£	Per cent	£	Per cent
0-750	25	1,700-2,250	10
750-7,000	34	Over 2,250	15
7,000-8,000	40		
8,000-9,000	45		
9,000-10,000	50		
10,000-11,500	55		
11,500-13,000	60		
13,000-15,000	65		
15,000-17,500	70		
17,500-23,000	75		
Over 23,000	83		

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10,000-11,500	55		
11,500-13,000	60		
13,000-15,000	65		
15,000-17,500	70		
17,500-23,000	75		
Over 23,000	83		

costs. The official forecasts accompanying the Budget assume that there will be little or no intervention in foreign exchange markets to influence the pounds value.

In talks with unions and employers the Chancellor will emphasize the need to limit earnings increases in the next pay round to half the level achieved in the twelve months to the end of this July. Present estimates suggest that earnings will go up by about 14 per cent during this year, so the Chancellor will try to achieve a 7 per cent increase in the next pay round.

Despite that, the assumption is that inflation will stabilize

at an annual rate of about 7 per cent by midsummer and will then start to rise slightly to about 8 per cent by the first half of next year.

The success of the Government in reducing the inflation rate was one of the factors cited by the Chancellor as allowing him to proceed to some expansion of the economy, which is expected to grow faster this year than at any time since Labour took office. However, he said that the difficulties of British industry were such that he had to tailor the expansion to the limits of its capacity to produce.

It was necessary to ensure that growth was sustainable over the years ahead. The present slump was the worst since the 1930s and the United Kingdom could play only a small role in achieving faster growth. By concentrating his action on income tax cuts he hoped to improve the productive potential of the economy.

As a result of the changes in the Budget and other variations in government plans, the public sector borrowing requirement is expected to be about £8,500m, or 5 1/2 per cent of national output, which represents an increase from the £7,000m (4 per cent of output) during 1977-78.

Money supply targets for the year just beginning have been set at an increase of 8 to 12 per cent of sterling M3, which is the usually accepted measure of the money supply. The Government will start counting from the banking month ending in mid-April, which means that the target is less tight than it first seems.

## Mr Carter to set example on inflation

From David Cross  
Washington, April 11

Unveiling a new anti-inflation campaign here today, President Carter announced that his Administration would set a good example to the rest of the country by limiting wage increases for federal employees this year.

"I am determined to take the lead in breaking the wage and price spiral by holding federal pay increases down", he told a meeting of Newspaper Editors in Washington. "I intend to propose a limit of about 5.5 per cent this year, thereby setting an example for labour and industry to moderate price and wage increases."

Mr Carter recalled that earlier this year he had suggested that labour and industry should voluntarily hold down wage and price increases this year, below the average increase for the two preceding years.

In addition to limiting the salaries of federal employees, he had sent letters to every state governor and to the mayors of the country's largest cities urging them to follow his example. He said any states planning to reduce local taxes should first consider lowering sales taxes.

The President said he and his senior colleagues would be getting no salary increases at all. "I believe that those who are most privileged in our nation, including other executives in government and in private companies, should set a similar example of restraint."

The President's long-awaited message on inflation contained no surprises. He made it clear that he believed it was a myth that the Government itself could stop inflation and it was up to the country as a whole to play its part. "Success or failure in this overall effort will largely be determined by the actions of the private sector of the economy," he said.

Although the United States had made good progress in sustaining growth and creating jobs in the past 15 months a number of economic problems still "cause us continuing deep concern", he said.

Too many Americans, particularly young people and members of minority groups, were still without jobs. "I am determined to sustain our economy's progress towards high employment and rising real income with both existing programmes and with new, carefully targeted incentives to encourage private business to hire the hard-core unemployed."

## Football results

Middlesbrough 1, Coventry 1  
Manchester City 0, Nottingham Forest 0  
QPR 2, Arsenal 1  
Hull 0, Southampton 3  
Tranmere 1, Clitham 1  
Plymouth 1, Rotherham 1  
Doncaster 4, Aldershot 3  
Carlisle 2, Hereford 0  
Swindon 2, Walsall 3  
Barnsley 0, Swans 2  
Port Vale 1, Wrexham 1  
Hartlepool 0, Northampton 2  
Huddersfield 1, York 2  
Gillingham 1, Watford 1  
Peterborough 2, Chesterfield 0  
Crewe 2, Southport 0

Match report, page 12

## The Chancellor's speech in full, pages 6 & 7

## Dunkirk spirit breaks out at Claridge's as union backs strikers

## Making do with stew and salmon

By Robin Young

The assistant restaurant manager taking luncheon bookings yesterday at Claridge's said gently: "You do know our circumstances. We are the victims of an industrial dispute, so there is a restricted menu. We are living in a new world. Never thought it would happen to us. I hope you will forgive us."

But once past the pickets, four to each door, with painted placards saying "I never knew the feudal system existed until I came to Claridge's" and "This is not Fawley Towers", little seemed to have changed. The strikers were later heard as luncheon guests were leaving to hear that the dispute has been declared official by the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

There were more than 50 guests in the dining room, who were offered steak and kidney pie, Irish stew, "anything from the grill", or poached salmon with hollandaise sauce.

The first courses available included smoked salmon, ported shrimps, avocado vinaigrette and cold vichyssoise, and there were more than a dozen sweets on the trolley.

"You will find the food possibly better today, sir," a waiter said encouragingly. "It is all cooked by the sous-chefs and top people in our kitchens."

It is Claridge's first strike in 163 years and the manager of the Savoy group, to which the hotel belongs, admits that it has been joined by 80 staff, principally chambermaids, floor waiters and kitchen staff. The strikers claim more than a hundred supporters.

The dispute was caused by the dismissal of a trainee chef, Mr Richard Elridge, aged 19, who says he was dismissed for recruiting union members. The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service is to rule next Tuesday on a claim for

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## Turin prison officer shot dead

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, April 11

A prison officer at Turin jail, where the alleged leaders of the Red Brigades are being held during their trial, was shot dead today. One of the gunmen was seriously wounded and left at a local hospital by other members of the group.

The murdered man, Signor Lorenzo Conogno, aged 31, married with one child, ran into a hail of bullets as he left his home but managed to draw his pistol and shoot at least one of his attackers.

The police later identified a man who was left in the local casualty department with gun wounds by two men who escaped in a taxi as Cristoforo Piancone, aged 28, who was born in Grenoble, in France, and now works in Fiat's Mirafiori factory in Turin.

They said he was a known supporter of the extreme left.

## Children slept in rubble as mothers worked on construction site.

Up to fifty percent of the construction site labourers in India's cities are women.

They flock to Delhi and Bombay from the poor rural areas of Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Those who are lucky enough to find employment in the cities may have to leave their children to sleep or play in the rubble of the worksite.

It was to provide shelter for these neglected children that the mobile crèches for working mothers' children was set up in 1963.

## Lunches and Lessons

This Oxfam-backed voluntary organisation erects temporary shelters on building sites taking in children up to the age of 12. Each centre teaches reading and writing and provides recreational and creative activities and medical attention if needed.

The children get a mid-day meal and milk twice a day. There are also regular vaccination and immunisation programmes carried out in conjunction with the civic authorities.

At first mothers were nervous to leave their children with strangers and acceptance was slow. But by 1976 thirty two centres were in operation caring for several thousand children. The running cost of one centre is just £16 a week.

This is only one of the worthwhile projects which Oxfam helps to finance.



Details of Oxfam's current activities are available from Oxfam Room, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ. Contributions, large or small are always gratefully received.

Give us this day our daily bread.



Here is my donation for £ to help Oxfam's work among the poor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send now to Oxfam, Room 111, Oxfam, Freeport, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

## New evidence rejected

The latest attempt to establish the innocence of Michael McMahon, convicted of the 1969 murder of a Luton postman, failed in the Court of Appeal. The Lord Chief Justice said fresh evidence supporting Mr McMahon's claim that he was in London at the time was "not likely to be credible".

## Crime 'from boredom'

Nearly seven tenths of the detected crime in Northumbria was committed either by people out of work or by schoolchildren, Mr Stanley Batty, Chief Constable of Northumbria, disclosed in his annual report. He said: "I am quite sure a lot of unemployed people do commit crime out of boredom."

## Broads rescue plan

The Countryside Commission will not be designating the Norfolk Broads as a national park. Instead a consortium will be empowered to lead the fight against pollution there.

## Soviet anger at US

Soviet reaction to the refusal of Mr Arkady Shevchenko, United Nations Under Secretary-General, to return to Russia after leaving his job in New York is that he is a "victim of a premeditated provocation" involving United States intelligence services. A protest was lodged with the State Department and his return to the Soviet Union was demanded.

## Callaghan challenge

The Prime Minister has written a second letter to Mr William Whitelaw, Conservative deputy leader, seeking a clear denial of a remark he is reported to have made about a deliberate slowdown in immigrant acceptances ahead of an election.



# Mr Callaghan presses Mr Whitelaw over immigrants charge

By Michael Hanfield  
Political Reporter

The immigration issue took on personal overtones yesterday as the Prime Minister insisted that Mr William Whitelaw, the Conservative deputy leader, publicly dissociated himself from remarks that he is reported to have made about immigrant figures.

Mr Whitelaw's response was not as forthcoming as Mr Callaghan would like; he argues that he cannot substantiate or deny the report which appeared in *The Guardian*, yesterday, without indicating what did or did not take place at a private meeting.

The burden of the report was that Mr Whitelaw told the Conservative backbench home affairs group on Monday night that the Prime Minister was deliberately delaying immigration to come to Britain to improve immigration statistics in time for the general election.

Some of the MPs who attended the meeting said last night that Mr Whitelaw had made such a passing reference, but that it was a social aside. It had been made in response to a speech by Mr Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton, South-west, who had said there could be a rush of immigrants in view of the recently announced Conservative policy.

Others remembered Mr Whitelaw referring to possible government action to delay permission but did not recall his mentioning the Prime Minister. Whatever construction is put on the reported remarks, Mr Callaghan is demanding satisfaction, and feels that so far he has not got it.

He told Mr Whitelaw that the report that "immigration is being kept artificially low on my personal order to improve statistics is false in

every particular" and added: "I shall be glad to have your personal assurance that you have not made such a charge".

Mr Whitelaw replied: "The report in *The Guardian* to which you refer relates to some alleged remarks of mine at a private meeting. It does not give a full and accurate picture of what I said. I certainly did not wish to make a personal charge against you."

The letter could hardly be construed as an unreserved denial. At least the Prime Minister does not think so, for last night he wrote again to Mr Whitelaw saying that the form of the letter did not dispose of the matter.

By restricting your remarks in this way, you have left unclarified the allegation that promises have been deliberately delayed for immigration to come to Britain in order to improve immigration statistics in time for an election."

The Prime Minister said the facts spoke for themselves. The number of staff examining applications for entry to Britain in the Indian subcontinent had been maintained at the levels of 1974-75. They had not been told to slow the rate at which applications were processed.

Between January and December, 1977, waiting times before receipt of applications and first interview for dependants in the Indian subcontinent fell from seven months to five and from 24 to 21. In Islamabad, waiting time rose from 13 months to 17.

Mr Whitelaw was in Loughborough attending the Federation of Conservative Students' conference last night and would not be drawn when asked if his reported remarks were accurate.

## Claridge's pickets hopeful

Continued from page 1

recognition at the hotel by the GIMW.

Mr Elvidge says he had been entered in the kitchens' warning book only twice in his 18 months at the hotel: once for drinking a cup of tea in working hours and once for putting too little salt in the ratatouille.

In the restaurant at lunchtime yesterday some of the senior staff maintained that the strikers had been attempting to sabotage the kitchens in recent weeks by putting salt in the Grand Marnier soufflés.

Diners found little to complain about at any rate. Outside, reporters from the *Daily Express* were trying to bamboozle colleagues with apocryphal tales of the Duchess of Argyll gloomily hunching off a poached egg, but inside Lady Falkender, who really was a customer, said: "I had soup and steak and thoroughly enjoyed it. I thought the service was very good."

The hotel management said: "The guests have been wonderful. We had many offering to make their own beds this morning, though of course we would not let them."

The Dunkirk spirit was not shared by all. In the foyer a newly arrived customer said: "I have been staying at this hotel for four years, but I will not be making my own bed. The manager can make it, but I will not."

Only tea, coffee and biscuits were served in the rooms yesterday morning, but today the hotel hopes it may be able to provide Continental breakfast upstairs. "We are optimistic, and we will not negotiate under pressure," the management said.

There was some optimism also on the picket lines. The strikers claimed some success in turning away fresh food deliveries and rubbish collections.

Few have been union members long enough to qualify for strike benefits, but there was some encouragement from public donations to a strike fund which has been opened. A local resident contributed £100, collected, he said, from Mayfair neighbours who thought it disgusting that the hotel should charge its customers so much and pay its staff so little.

In the dining room the older waiters took a gloomy view of the strike's prospects. "I have been through three strikes with this company," one said. "The first two, right after the war, I joined. The third, I did not bother. Now there is no point."

On the picket line too there was an uneasy awareness that the Savoy group's success in breaking a 1947 strike at the Savoy Hotel had played a key part in keeping the catering industry non-unionized for so long.

At the front door, uniformed doormen cleared a path through pickets and pressmen for Sir Anthony Hornby, president of Savoy Hotels Limited. "Are you going to stand there for ever?" he challenged two placard-carrying chefs de parti. "Because you will, you know. We will never take him back, never."

"This way, sir," said the door man, ushering Sir Anthony from the chilly pavement to the cosseted world within.

**Barrister loses appeal**

Mr Shankar Ali Khan, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, who admitted charges of professional misconduct, has lost his appeal against a 12-month suspension from practice.

## Tory student attack on race policy

The Federation of Conservative Students yesterday condemned "those in the Conservative Party who imply that the number of coloured people can be dramatically reduced by stopping immigration."

The motion, which was passed by 103 votes to 91 by delegates at the federation's annual conference, at Loughborough, said politicians have a duty to ally, not exacerbate, people's fears.

The federation also passed a motion stating that the commitments given in the past to holders of British passports must be honoured.

Mr William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party and spokesman on home affairs, said it was important to distinguish between those United Kingdom passport holders in East Africa to whom the British Government in 1962 gave a commitment in 1962 allowing them to settle in Britain, and passport holders elsewhere to whom no such commitment had been given.

In no sense could the party's new proposals on immigration be described as discriminatory on racial grounds, he said. He would never have agreed to the proposals for strict immigration control unless he had believed they were in the best interests of ethnic minorities in Britain.

"There are those who have acted hysterically and absurdly to our immigration proposals", Mr Whitelaw said.

Conference report, page 3

## Hunt for gang who seized man after drugging wife

From Christopher Walker

Terrorist violence in Northern Ireland has taken an ominous new twist with the kidnapping of a young Roman Catholic and the drugging of his wife by masked men using a hypodermic syringe and an unidentified tranquilizer.

It happened on a wet Belfast morning, just before dawn, when a young man, 22, was taken from his home and put in the back of a car. The police with-held details for 72 hours in the hope that the man would be released. Last night, as detectives organized a widespread hunt, fears were growing that he might be the victim of a Provisional IRA vengeance squad.

Nine men burst into the house of Mr Brendan McGraw, aged 23, on the Twinbrook estate. He was out and the terrorists waited after tying up his pregnant wife and drugging her.

Miss Doris Day, a gaming club employee, said in a statement read at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that Alan Maudsley, former Birmingham city architect, went on gambling visits with directors of C. Bryant and Son, a construction company. She said Mr Maudsley called her "Dot" and was nearly always drunk when she saw him.

Alan Christopher Bryant, aged 53, chairman of the company, of Salsbury, near Broadwater, Hereford and Worcester, has denied two charges of conspiracy to corrupt.

Miss Day, employed at the New Highfield Club, Park Road, Moseley, Birmingham, said Mr Maudsley, whom I

## Long experience of a multiracial society 'has reduced appeal of National Front'

### Labour stresses urban renewal in Lambeth campaign

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government's attempts to remedy inner-city decay is receiving high priority in the campaign being waged by Mr John Tilley, the Labour candidate in the Lambeth, Central, by-election. Polling day is a week tomorrow.

Yesterday the south London constituency was visited by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment. He was accompanied by Mr Guy Barnett, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the department, who chairs the inner-city partnership committee between Lambeth and the Government.

Lambeth, which has a serious housing shortage and high unemployment, was one of the first two areas in London to enter into a partnership agreement. Mr Barnett said yesterday that it was hoped that a comprehensive development plan for the borough, concentrating particularly on the 12- to 22 age group, would be complete by next April.

Although coloured people are

estimated to make up a quarter of the population in the constituency, fears that race would predominate as a campaign issue have so far proved unfounded. Mr Tilley believes that that is the result of a muted campaign by the National Front and of the two-month police ban on political demonstrations in London, which expires on April 24.

However, there are fears that a National Front meeting arranged for an infants' school in the centre of the constituency on Saturday may lead to a clash with its opponents. Among the speakers are likely to be Mr John Tyndall, the organization's chairman, and Mr Martin Webster, its national activities organizer.

Mr Tilley, aged 36, a journalist and a member of the neighbouring Wandsworth council, said yesterday that he had concentrated in his campaign on opposition to racialism, defence of the Government's record, particularly in controlling inflation, and the

need for more industry and better public services in Lambeth.

Although he had welcomed last year's government initiative on the inner cities, he believed that more money and greater powers to attract industry were needed. "Local authorities have been concentrating on building houses and improving social services when we should also have been building up the local economic base."

The constituency traditionally regarded as a safe Labour seat, had been represented since the war, and through a boundary change in 1974, by the late Mr Marcus Lipson, who had an 8,677 majority at the last election. Mr Tilley expressed the hope that intensive canvassing would produce a high turnout in an area characterised by voters' apathy and help him to achieve a six-figure poll.

He said the Conservatives were making a serious mistake in "entering into an auction" on immigration policies with the National Front. "The

National Front can always out-bid them. People in Lambeth who were initially attracted by Mrs Thatcher's remarks feel that the Conservatives are not going to do anything about the black population and they are swinging back to the National Front."

He added that National Front policies carried little weight in the constituency because residents had experienced the reality of a multiracial community for the past twenty years.

Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, who last week introduced the party's proposals for stricter immigration controls and who plans to address a campaign meeting in Brixton tomorrow, was urged yesterday to keep away.

Mr David Blum, aged 33, the Liberal candidate, said: "His planned visit to Lambeth can only further compound the damage which he has done, and I therefore appeal to him to stay away."

Candidates: John Tilley (Lab), Jeremy Huxley (C), David Blum (L), Helena Stevens (NF), Corin Redgrave (WRP), Anthony Bogues (Flame SWP), John Chase (Brit-

ton Soc Unity), Barry McNeeney (SPGB), Stuart Morgan (S London People's Front), William Bogues (Den Monarchists), Alan Whereat (Ind).

General election: M. Lipson (Lab), 15,381; N. Lyell (C), 5,704; P. Easton (L), 3,215; J. Smith (WRP), 233; P. Bratton (Marxist-Leninist), 88.

Labour poll lead: Labour has a 5 per cent lead over the Scottish National Party in Glasgow, Garscadden where a by-election takes place tomorrow, according to a poll published in yesterday's *Glasgow Herald*.

The results of a fitch poll, conducted by System Three over the weekend, were: Labour, 33 per cent; SNP, 28 per cent; Conservative, 14 per cent; Scottish Labour Party 1 per cent; SWP 0.5 per cent; don't know, 23 per cent. The findings were based on a random sample of 521 electors.

Mr Donald Dewar, the Labour candidate, said he was "extremely happy" about the poll result. His only worry was that it would result in a low turnout. The Conservative responded to the poll by issuing figures based on canvass returns indicating that they were in the lead.

## No increase in price when bread goes metric

By Hugh Clayton

Ministers acted yesterday to ensure that price controls on bread do not lapse when loaves will rise by a hundredth in a week, when they change ounces to grams.

Bread prices are controlled more tightly than those of other food. The complex system fixes limits based on the prices at which grain is bought from the bakers.

Bread companies have insisted that they will put up prices when the change is made to avoid any suspicion that metric weights are used to mask unjustified rises.

The large loaf will go from 28oz (397 grams) to 400g, and the small loaf from 199 grams to 200 grams, complexity of the rules illustrated by the name of order in which the present system of price controls was originally declared applicable to the metric loaf. It is Bread Prices (No. 2), 1976 (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1976.

Closures condemned: Spillers' decision to close bread-making and close 23 bakeries, condemned as "ruthless and irresponsible" by stewards representing trade unions at a meeting in Glasgow yesterday.

Mr Peter Talbot, of TGWU, said the Government would be asked to Spillers to meet its obligation, which was not met, would be considered against the company's actions.

Correspondent

## Nurses reject pay offer

The 80,000 nursing members of the National Union of Employees yesterday rejected government offer of a 4 per cent rise in pay, ranging from £3 a week for a student nurse to £10.41 for a principal nurse.

The deal was rejected by the 18 area committees sending nursing staff. The wage increases divided equally among all grades.

**Tiger poison tests**

Poison tests were made yesterday after two Bengal tigers became ill at Drayton Zoo, near Tanworth, Shropshire. They were said to be recovering.



Springtime snowfalls near Puckeridge, Hertfordshire, yesterday, while waiting for the school bus, which failed to arrive.

## Missing army helicopter found in Ulster lough

An Army Scout helicopter had been seen to come down in the sea off Porthcawl during a snowstorm on Monday.

The men, both qualified pilots, were Mr Alan Langdon, aged 49, of Clyst Honiton, south Devon, and Mr Richard Boyce, aged 48, of Braintree, north Devon.

They were believed to be on a flight from North Wales to Rhosneig, South Glamorgan.

The whole of Scotland and more than thirty counties in England and Wales were covered by snow yesterday as the cold weather continued.

London had the coldest April night on record on Monday, with a minimum temperature of -1°C (30°F).

## Apex accused of betrayal

### Grunwick employees

By Christopher Thomas

Trade union and TUC handling of the Grunwick dispute is strongly criticized in motions submitted for the policy-making conference later this month of the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex).

Apex, which has spent £130,000 on the dispute since September, 1976, will consider a censure motion from its north-west London branch for cowardly betrayal of the Grunwick strikers.

The union is paying £30 a week to 60 people. Last year alone the dispute cost Apex £100,000, but other unions gave £35,000 and levies on Apex branches yielded £15,000.

The censure motion is unlikely to succeed. In extreme

ones it condemns the cowardly role of TUC in insisting that Apex should do all attempts to resolve the dispute through the process, criticizes the and seeks to smash it, and the TUC.

Every motion submitted to the conference is signed by one of the union's executives. The union's approach is criticized in an amendment to the constitution which would require the union to deny basic trade rights to our members.

A Westminster spokesman expressed dissatisfaction with executive's handling of the dispute.

## Commission opens inquiry into housing fraud claims

From Our Own Correspondent

The commission appointed to investigate allegations of irregularities in the allocation of contracts by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive held its first public session yesterday.

Under the chairmanship of Judge R. T. Rowland, QC, the three commissioners will investigate allegations of fraud and charges by politicians, that the Housing Executive had found its way indirectly into the hands of the IRA during 1974 and 1975.

Some sessions of the inquiry will be in public, but Judge Rowland said yesterday that other sessions would be closed to the public. He pointed out that the commission had no power to compel witnesses to produce documents or to attend.

Under the terms of reference laid down by the Government, the commission's task is "to inquire, in the light of allegations affecting the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, into the placing and management of contracts and the payment of grants by the NIHE and to report thereon."

The commission will solicit evidence through newspaper advertisements inviting members of the public to submit allegations. It will also consider official documents, including a lengthy police report submitted last year to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who decided against instituting court proceedings.

Loyalist politicians have criticized the commission's lack of powers, particularly its inability to hear evidence under oath. Last night the moderate Alliance Party denounced the official inquiry into the housing scandal as an expensive farce.

## Weather forecast and recordings

From Our Own Correspondent

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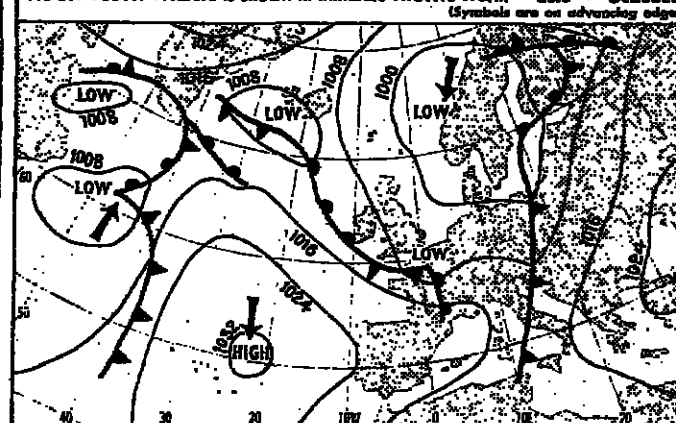
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**Today**  
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Moon rises: 9.9 am  
Sun sets: 7.52 pm  
Moon sets: 12.51 am tomorrow

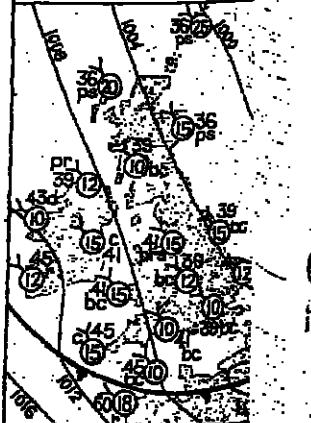
First quarter: April 15  
Lighting up: 8.22 pm to 5.40 am  
High water: London Bridge, 5.30 am, 7.1m (23.4ft); 5.48 pm, 6.5m (21.6ft); Avonmouth, 10.55 am, 12.3m (40.3ft); 10.55 pm, 12.0m (39.3ft); Dover, 2.29 am, 6.3m (20.8ft); 3.47 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft); Hull, 9.43 am, 6.8m (22.2ft); 10.0 pm, 6.6m (21.6ft); Liverpool, 2.43 am, 8.7m (28.4ft); 3.2 pm, 8.5m (27.8ft).

A very cold NW airstream will cover the British Isles after the clearance of troughs of low pressure from S Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, 2 Midlands, 3 SE, 4 NW, 5 SW, 6 W, 7 NW, 8 W, 9 NW, 10 NW, 11 NW, 12 NW.

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Cold and mostly dry at first, some sunshine, becoming less cold with outbreaks of rain spreading from W, preceded by sleet or snow in places.

Sea passages: S North Sea, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.



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John Maudsley



## Churchmen warned of 'neo-Nazi sympathy'

The National Front was criticised by the assembly of the British Council of Churches meeting at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, yesterday. A draft discussion paper on the Front is to be revised and presented to the council's executive on May 9 for final recommendations.

Presenting the document, the secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Dr Kenneth Greer, said the churches were right to speak out plainly. The Front had been condemned by almost all responsible organs of public opinion in the country. It would have been an incomprehensible dereliction of duty to remain silent.

just particles upwards to be coughed or sneezed away. A number of tests can be made from tissue cultures of a trachea taken from a rat or similar animal.

Much of the screening and toxicity studies can be done before moving to statutory animal safety tests. Dr Bucknall said, by the organ tissue type of culture work. That secondary level of screening work could also be done with culture lines of human tissue, say, from the lungs.

Dr Andrew Rowan, of the fund, asked for a review of toxicity-testing procedures. He said some research workers had indicated that tissue culture methods were unsatisfactory and were used only where no other options were possible. As an example, he said was when little of a trial compound was available for testing.

He supported the idea of a review by experienced toxicologists and scientists of the existing technology and screening methods. "I think it's going to provide quick answers. He believed such a group could pinpoint areas in which there was confidence.

Much of that expenditure would be matched by grant aid from the commission, but he could not give an exact figure because the commission was not empowered to make grants for such things as pollution control.

He hoped, however, that the commission would be able to encourage the water authority to spend more on fighting pollution, which was generally agreed to be the main threat to Broad's water supply.

Among its other tasks should be updating of the local plan, improvement of recreational access and the supply of water. Detailed information would be provided.

The commission would ask the consortium to accept the appointment of three independent voting members to represent local interests, including one of a salaried Broads officer as its principal adviser.

information to motorists and that there have been substantial discussions inside the European Broadcasting Union."

The committee had representatives of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, the Home Office, broadcasting authorities, and police forces, who were asked to consider the proposals.

Car radio manufacturers want to see the unit fitted as part of new radios; but for the man who already has a radio and does not want to change there would be a self-contained model.

Sandell said the system could contribute greatly to road safety. He hoped that it would eventually be used throughout Europe.

those given to the select committee by Mr Gerald Kaufman, Minister for Industry, on February 8, 1978.

[Mr Kaufman, who was asked to provide the committee with a copy of his own review of the BSC, said other government departments were involved in the wider considerations of the review. "It would not be in good practice to produce internal working papers."] The Department of Industry also referred to a letter sent to Sir John Gorton, then Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, to 51 heads of government departments in which he urged them to publish as much background material as possible once decisions had been taken. But he also stated that there was no intention of releasing material that "correctly bears current secrecy classification or privacy marking."

The British Railways Board was cleared by magistrates at Letchworth, Bedfordshire, yesterday of negligence in failing to provide maintenance men with adequate training. Four men were killed by a train near Bedford last May.

The Health and Safety Executive, which brought the prosecution, was ordered to pay the board £300 costs. The board had already been cleared of failing to ensure the posting of a lookout.

ated that compulsory membership of student unions was incompatible with individual freedom.

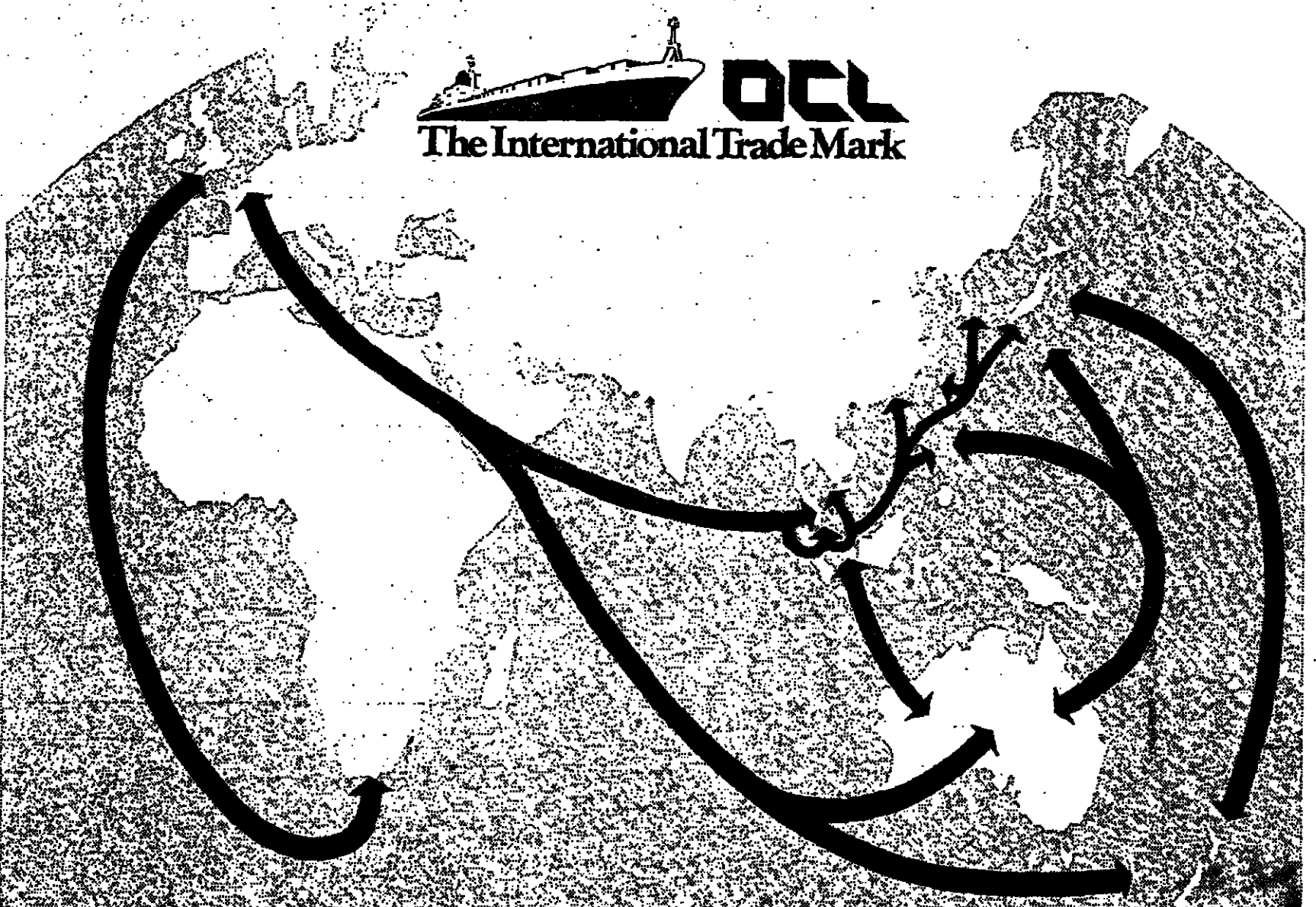
Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, said a message announcing his intention of introducing a Bill to make membership of student unions unlawful.

The moderate wing of the generation, which has been criticised by the recent growth in support for the association of members, threw out a stinging calling on a future Conservative government to ban trade unions closed shop.

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# THE BUDGET, 1978

## Benefits: Families with children helped but pensioners are not so happy with their lot

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Families with children were helped but pensioners were offered little more than the amount needed to protect them against inflation. The main changes affecting the two groups will be a second increase in child benefit in November, raising it from £2.30 a week to £3, and an 11 per cent increase for pensioners, giving married couples an extra £3.20 a week and single pensioners £2 more.

The child benefit increase in November will include the doubling of the premium for the first child in one-parent families, from £1 to £2 a week, matching exactly the demand made in February by the National Council for One-Parent Families. The cost of the November increases will be £165m, which will be met from the contingency reserve.

As expected, there will be another increase in child benefits in April, next year, bringing the basic level to £4 a week. That rise will coincide with the final withdrawal of child tax allowances for children under 11, and the value will be met partly by transferring the value of the tax allowance to the benefit.

Families with children will also be helped by the introduction of the new 25 per cent reduced rate of income tax on the first £750 of taxable earnings. That will take 360,000 people out of tax, including many low-paid families, and reduce the incidence of the poverty trap which leaves some poorer families worse off when their wages rise. That happens because they lose some means-tested benefits as their incomes rise, in addition to having to pay higher tax and national insurance contributions.

The rise in school-meal charges that had been expected this September will not take place, although it is widely expected that the Government intends to adhere to its policy of withdrawing subsidies from school meals by 1981. The price was expected to rise by about a tenth at the start of the autumn term.

Free school milk for children aged from 7 to 11 is to be restored by using subsidies available from the EEC. That facility will be at the discretion of local education authorities, and assuming they all use it, the total cost, together with that of postponing the increase in school meal charges, will be £68m in 1978-79.

About ten thousand one-parent families are also expected to benefit from the exemption of investment surcharge from maintenance payments. But that will affect only families receiving more than £3,000 a year in maintenance.

Mr Healey's measures were hailed as a "budget for children" by Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, who is normally one of the fiercest critics of the Government's family policy. It was the biggest increase in child benefits so far, and family men would respond this

autumn in their wage negotiations, he said. This signalled the beginning of a proper child-benefit scheme," he added. "Tax-free child benefits with the new reduced rate of income tax is the first big step in freeing families from the poverty trap."

Pensioners' organizations were less enthusiastic about the increases which will raise the single pension from £17.50 to £19.50, and the rate for married couples from £28 to £31.20. The age allowance for people over 65 is also being raised, marginally more than for people below retirement age, by £50 for a single pensioner and £100 for a married couple.

Age Concern, which pressed for a 15 per cent increase in the pension, gave the Budget a cautious welcome on the assumption that the Chancellor's predictions on inflation would prove correct. But it regretted that the opportunity had not been taken to give the 400,000 retired women between the ages of 60 and 64 the age allowance.

The pension increases were said to be too little by the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations and Old Age Pensioners' Association. The general secretary of the federation, said it had been looking for increases of £5 for a married couple and £3.50 for a single person.

Despite claims that prices are steady, pensioners are in fact being faced with real increases," he said. "Electricity went up 18 per cent on April 1. The clothing and footwear price index for February showed an increase of 2.1 per cent, household durables have gone up by 1.1 per cent and transport by 1.2 per cent."

Help the Aged said the Chancellor should be looking ahead to the level of the new state pension scheme in fixing pensions for present pensioners, who would not benefit from it. The Government is obliged to raise pensions annually in line with movements in either earnings or prices, whichever is higher.

The 11 per cent increase for retirement pensions will also apply to widows' and invalidity pensions, but short-term benefits, including supplementary, unemployment and sickness benefits, are expected to rise by a smaller amount. Details of increases in short-term benefits will be announced today by Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services.

David Wood writes from Luxembourg: Most of the 36 British members of the European Parliament, reading the Chancellor's proposals in Luxembourg, leapt to the conclusion that Mr Healey has done so little to satisfy any quarter of the House of Commons that he must be convinced he has another Budget to bring in before the general election.

Many of them believe that the tax concessions are too small, and it is clear that if opposition parties table amendments to the Finance Bill they may put the Labour rank and file under strain or temptation to kick over the traces.

## Income tax: single person (earned)

Charge for 1977/78		Proposed charge for 1978/79		Reduction in tax after proposed changes
Income	Income tax	Income tax	Percentage of total income taken in tax	
£	£	£	per cent	£
1000	12.70	12.70	1.3	14.35
1500	19.70	19.70	1.3	21.75
2000	26.70	26.70	1.3	29.15
2500	33.70	33.70	1.3	36.55
3000	40.70	40.70	1.3	43.95
3500	47.70	47.70	1.3	51.35
4000	54.70	54.70	1.3	58.75
4500	61.70	61.70	1.3	66.15
5000	68.70	68.70	1.3	73.55
5500	75.70	75.70	1.3	80.95
6000	82.70	82.70	1.3	88.35
6500	89.70	89.70	1.3	95.75
7000	96.70	96.70	1.3	103.15
7500	103.70	103.70	1.3	110.55
8000	110.70	110.70	1.3	117.95
8500	117.70	117.70	1.3	125.35
9000	124.70	124.70	1.3	132.75
9500	131.70	131.70	1.3	140.15
10000	138.70	138.70	1.3	147.55
10500	145.70	145.70	1.3	154.95
11000	152.70	152.70	1.3	162.35
11500	159.70	159.70	1.3	169.75
12000	166.70	166.70	1.3	177.15
12500	173.70	173.70	1.3	184.55
13000	180.70	180.70	1.3	191.95
13500	187.70	187.70	1.3	199.35
14000	194.70	194.70	1.3	206.75
14500	201.70	201.70	1.3	214.15
15000	208.70	208.70	1.3	221.55
15500	215.70	215.70	1.3	228.95
16000	222.70	222.70	1.3	236.35
16500	229.70	229.70	1.3	243.75
17000	236.70	236.70	1.3	251.15
17500	243.70	243.70	1.3	258.55
18000	250.70	250.70	1.3	265.95
18500	257.70	257.70	1.3	273.35
19000	264.70	264.70	1.3	280.75
19500	271.70	271.70	1.3	288.15
20000	278.70	278.70	1.3	295.55
20500	285.70	285.70	1.3	302.95
21000	292.70	292.70	1.3	310.35
21500	299.70	299.70	1.3	317.75
22000	306.70	306.70	1.3	325.15
22500	313.70	313.70	1.3	332.55
23000	320.70	320.70	1.3	339.95
23500	327.70	327.70	1.3	347.35
24000	334.70	334.70	1.3	354.75
24500	341.70	341.70	1.3	362.15
25000	348.70	348.70	1.3	369.55
25500	355.70	355.70	1.3	376.95
26000	362.70	362.70	1.3	384.35
26500	369.70	369.70	1.3	391.75
27000	376.70	376.70	1.3	399.15
27500	383.70	383.70	1.3	406.55
28000	390.70	390.70	1.3	413.95
28500	397.70	397.70	1.3	421.35
29000	404.70	404.70	1.3	428.75
29500	411.70	411.70	1.3	436.15
30000	418.70	418.70	1.3	443.55
30500	425.70	425.70	1.3	450.95
31000	432.70	432.70	1.3	458.35
31500	439.70	439.70	1.3	465.75
32000	446.70	446.70	1.3	473.15
32500	453.70	453.70	1.3	480.55
33000	460.70	460.70	1.3	487.95
33500	467.70	467.70	1.3	495.35
34000	474.70	474.70	1.3	502.75
34500	481.70	481.70	1.3	510.15
35000	488.70	488.70	1.3	517.55
35500	495.70	495.70	1.3	524.95
36000	502.70	502.70	1.3	532.35
36500	509.70	509.70	1.3	539.75
37000	516.70	516.70	1.3	547.15
37500	523.70	523.70	1.3	554.55
38000	530.70	530.70	1.3	561.95
38500	537.70	537.70	1.3	569.35
39000	544.70	544.70	1.3	576.75
39500	551.70	551.70	1.3	584.15
40000	558.70	558.70	1.3	591.55
40500	565.70	565.70	1.3	598.95
41000	572.70	572.70	1.3	606.35
41500	579.70	579.70	1.3	613.75
42000	586.70	586.70	1.3	621.15
42500	593.70	593.70	1.3	628.55
43000	600.70	600.70	1.3	635.95
43500	607.70	607.70	1.3	643.35
44000	614.70	614.70	1.3	650.75
44500	621.70	621.70	1.3	658.15
45000	628.70	628.70	1.3	665.55
45500	635.70	635.70	1.3	672.95
46000	642.70	642.70	1.3	680.35
46500	649.70	649.70	1.3	687.75
47000	656.70	656.70	1.3	695.15
47500	663.70	663.70	1.3	702.55
48000	670.70	670.70	1.3	709.95
48500	677.70	677.70	1.3	717.35
49000	684.70	684.70	1.3	724.75
49500	691.70	691.70	1.3	732.15
50000	698.70	698.70	1.3	739.55
50500	705.70	705.70	1.3	746.95
51000	712.70	712.70	1.3	754.35
51500	719.70	719.70	1.3	761.75
52000	726.70	726.70	1.3	769.15
52500	733.70	733.70	1.3	776.55
53000	740.70	740.70	1.3	783.95
53500	747.70	747.70	1.3	791.35
54000	754.70	754.70	1.3	798.75
54500	761.70	761.70	1.3	806.15
55000	768.70	768.70	1.3	813.55
55500	775.70	775.70	1.3	820.95
56000	782.70	782.70	1.3	828.35
56500	789.70	789.70	1.3	835.75
57000	796.70	796.70	1.3	843.15
57500	803.70	803.70	1.3	850.55
58000	810.70	810.70	1.3	857.95
58500	817.70	817.70	1.3	865.35
59000	824.70	824.70	1.3	872.75
59500	831.70	831.70	1.3	880.15
60000	838.70	838.70	1.3	887.55
60500	845.70	845.70	1.3	894.95
61000	852.70	852.70	1.3	902.35
61500	859.70	859.70	1.3	909.75
62000	866.70	866.70	1.3	917.15
62500	873.70	873.70	1.3	924.55
63000	880.70	880.70	1.3	931.95
63500	887.70	887.70	1.3	939.35
64000	894.70	894.70	1.3	946.75
64500	901.70	901.70	1.3	954.15
65000	908.70	908.70	1.3	961.55
65500	915.70	915.70	1.3	968.95
66000	922.70	922.70	1.3	976.35
66500	929.70	929.70	1.3	983.75
67000	936.70	936.70	1.3	991.15
67500	943.70	943.70	1.3	998.55
68000	950.70	950.70	1.3	1005.95
68500	957.70	957.70	1.3	1013.35
69000	964.70	964.70	1.3	1020.75
69500	971.70	971.70	1.3	1028.15
70000	978.70	978.70	1.3	1035.55
70500	985.70	985.70	1.3	1042.95
71000	992.70	992.70	1.3	1050.35
71500	999.70	999.70	1.3	1057.75
72000	1006.70	1006.70	1.3	1065.15
72500	1013.70	1013.70	1.3	1072.55
73000	1020.70	1020.70	1.3	1079.95
73500	1027.70	1027.70	1.3	1087.35
74000	1034.70	1034.70	1.3	1094.75
74500	1041.70	1041.70	1.3	1102.15
75000	1048.70	1048.70	1.3	1109.55
75500	1055.70	1055.70	1.3	1116.95
76000	1062.70	1062.70	1.3	1124.35
76500	1069.70	1069.70	1.3	1131.75
77000	1076.70	1076.70	1.3	1139.15
77500	1083.70	1083.70	1.3	1146.55
78000	1090.70	1090.70	1.3	1153.95
78500	1097.70	1097.70	1.3	1161.35
79000	1104.70	1104.70	1.3	1168.75
79500	1111.70	1111.70	1.3	1176.15
80000	1118.70	1118.70	1.3	1183.55
80500	1125.70	1125.70	1.3	1190.95
81000	1132.70	1132.70	1.3	1198.35
81500	1139.70	1139.70	1.3	1205.75
82000	1146.70	1146.70	1.3	1213.15
82500	1153.70	1153.70	1.3	1220.55
83000	1160.70	1160.70	1.3	1227.95
83500	1167.70	1167.70	1.3	1235.35
84000	1174.70	1174.70	1.3	1242.75
84500	1181.70	1181.70	1.3	1250.15
85000	1188.70	1188.70	1.3	1257.55
85500	1195.70	1195.70	1.3	1264.95
86000	1202.70	1202.70	1.3	1272.35
86500	1209.70	1209.70	1.3	1279.75
87000	1216.70	1216.70	1.3	1287.15
87500	1223.70	1223.70	1.3	1294.55
88000	1230.70	1230.70	1.3	1301.95
88500	1237.70	1237.70	1.3	1309.35
89000	1244.70	1244.70	1.3	1316.75
89500	1251.70	1251.70	1.3	1324.15
90000	1258.70	1258.70	1.3	1331.55
90500	1265.70	1265.70	1.3	1338.95
91000	1272.70	1272.70	1.3	1346.35
91500	1279.70	1279.70	1.3	1353.75
92000	1286.70	1286.70	1.3	1361.15
92500	1293.70	1293.70	1.3	1368.55
93000	1300.70	1300.70	1.3	1375.95
93500	1307.70	1307.70	1.3	1383.35
94000	1314.70	1314.70	1.3	1390.75
94500	1321.70	1321.70	1.3	1398.15
95000	1328.70	1328.70	1.3	1405.55
95500	1335.70	1335.70	1.3	1412.95
96000	1342.70	1342.70	1.3	1420.35
96500	1349.70	1349.70	1.3	1427.75
97000	1356.70	1356.70	1.3	1435.15
97500	1363.70	1363.70	1.3	1442.55
98000	1370.70	1370.70	1.3	1449.95
98500	1377.70	1377.70	1.3	1457.35
99000	1384.70	1384.70	1.3	1464.75
99500	1391.70	1391.70	1.3	1472.15
100000	1398.70	1398.70	1.3	1479.55



# HOW TO INCREASE YOUR PERSONAL ALLOWANCES BY MORE THAN THE CHANCELLOR INCREASED THEM YESTERDAY.

Yesterday, the Chancellor had good news for all of us with the new personal allowances.

Today, we can tell you how you may be able to increase, in effect, your own personal allowances a further £130.

It's open, for the most part, to any individual owning a two litre company car for business purposes. For the privilege of driving that car, the Inland Revenue reduce your personal allowances £380. Which raises your tax bill by the amount shown in the middle column of the table.

OUR 1977/1978 TAX RATE IS:	YOUR TAX BILL ON A TWO LITRE CAR	YOUR TAX BILL ON THE AUDI AVANT
34%	£129	£85
40%	£152	£100
45%	£171	£113
50%	£190	£125
55%	£209	£138
60%	£228	£150

In certain cases, your tax bill will be prorated.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TAXMAN DOESN'T RATE THE NEW Audi 100 Avant L VERY HIGHLY.

At this point, may we introduce you to the new Audi 100 Avant L.

It's well worth buying in its own right.

For it shares the engineering virtues that have made the Audi 100 saloon the most sought after we've ever built.

And it has a fifth door, to boot.

But for the man trying to cut his tax bill it has an extra advantage. For its engine size takes it out of the £380 Inland Revenue class. And into the £250 and Revenue class.

And that £130 difference, as any accountant will confirm, is in effect increasing your tax free income, or personal allowance, by £130. (This reduces your tax bill to the amount shown in the right hand column of the table.)

Should you have to pay for your own petrol, the saving becomes even more noticeable.

Because the Audi Avant offers you 25.4 mpg\* on the automatic version in town. And it runs on two star petrol.

## TWO LITRE PERFORMANCE WITHOUT TWO LITRE TAXATION.

Does all this mean you sacrifice the joys of two litre motoring?

Far from it.

'Motor' timed our car 30 to 50 mph at 11.7 seconds. Which is as quick as at least a couple of its two litre rivals. But it's not just acceleration which decides how fast a car can be driven.

Road holding and handling are equally important. And here, the Avant matches the Audi 100 saloon: to quote 'Car' magazine, the Avant is "a car that can be guided with unerring accuracy at the highest speeds."

There's only one problem we foresee.

By our reckoning, there are at least 60,000 people who could cut their tax bill by moving up to an Avant. But we're only planning to import around 2,000 Avants this year.

It'll just have to be first come first served. So send us the coupon for all the details right away.

It's not every day you've got a chance to lower your tax bill, yet raise your standard of living.

Please send me details of the new Audi 100 Avant L. And how I can buy it on HP with just 3% interest rate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Audi Marketing Department, Volkswagen House, Brighton House, Purley, Surrey.

\*cars over 1800cc less than four years old and being at least 10% business use. Official fuel consumption figures for Urban Cycle are: 22.4 mpg/12.6 litres per 100 km (Manual) and 25.4 mpg/11.1 litres per 100 km (Automatic) and at constant 56 mph: 38.7 mpg/7.3 litres per 100 km (Manual) and 34.9 mpg/8.1 litres per 100 km (Automatic). The new Audi 100 Avant range starts at £25,099. Prices include VAT, car tax and seat belts and are correct at time of going to press. Number plates and delivery extra. (3% per annum is equivalent to a true rate of 5.5% per annum over a maximum 2 year period.)

Offer period runs from April 8 to June 10.



# Income tax cuts in Mr Healey's 13th budget account for almost all £2,500m boost to economy: spur to industrial strategy includes help for small firms

House of Commons

Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Leeds, East, Lab), presenting his Budget statement, said:

Since the financial statement and Budget report gives a full account of events in our economy over the last 12 months, I do not propose to begin my speech this afternoon with the usual historical preamble. And I shall follow the precedent I set last October by wherever possible putting detailed material about my proposals into supplementary documents which are being published this afternoon.

I shall therefore confine my speech to the central features of our economic situation as we enter a new financial year, and to the budgetary measures which I am asking the House to adopt in consequence.

The whole of the industrial world has found the last four years by far the most difficult since the war. The enormous increase in oil prices and the reaction to it of the industrial countries have plunged the world into the deepest and most prolonged recession since the 1930s combined with an unprecedented inflation.

The period has been particularly difficult for us in Britain because we entered it with our economy badly out of balance, a growing deficit on our current account, and severe inflationary pressures.

Four years of painful and difficult decisions have now got the economy into a better balance. Our current account has moved into surplus. Our financial position has been transformed, the year-on-year rate of inflation has fallen to single figures and is still falling. Interest rates are far below the level of four years ago. The money supply is under control, and we have exceptionally high reserves.

All this is reflected in the fact that the fourth quarter of last year saw a rise of nearly 5 per cent in real personal income after tax and national insurance—the biggest quarterly rise for nearly six years.

## Action needed on jobless

But this transformation in our financial situation has not yet been reflected in the adequate growth of output. In consequence unemployment remains intolerably high, though it has been falling slowly since September.

It is the first purpose of this Budget to encourage a level of economic activity sufficient to get employment back to a more comfortable level. But like all other countries—and more than most—we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world. And here the outlook still leaves much to be desired.

Two years ago it looked as if the industrialized world was emerging from the severe contraction of activity which followed the increase in oil prices. But that recovery proved more sluggish than expected. 1977 was a disappointing year for nearly all the world. Economic growth in the OECD area was well below the average rate obtained in the 1960s.

World trade in manufactures increased only 3.5 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent in 1976. Although with an increase of 8 per cent in the volume of our manufactured exports we increased our share of world trade, in general as well as in manufactures, there was very little growth in our economy during 1977.

The problems created by the slow growth of the world economy have been made worse by the big payments to the United States and other oil-consuming countries. Some oil-producing countries cannot in the short run eliminate their surpluses through trade, so the oil consumers are left with a corresponding deficit.

The total current deficit of the OECD countries rose to around £10 billion in 1977. Our deficit includes a large increase in the deficit of the United States and a large increase in the surplus of Japan.

Our reason for these disparities is that other strong countries have been slow to follow the expansionary lead of the United States. These changes have at the root of the currency instability of the last few months which is itself a further threat to world growth.

If we are to solve this country's problems we need to take action on a world scale. No single country can lead the world out of its difficulties. Indeed, the whole country can by itself solve even its own problems.

The Prime Minister and the President of the United States recognized this fact when they met at Easter to discuss a programme for concerted action, designed to attack simultaneously the major problems which are now damaging the world economy—low growth, currency instability, the demand for world energy, and dependence on imported energy and inadequate flows of stable long-term capital and aid from the surplus countries to the deficit countries, including many in the developing world.

Head of government of the seven leading world economies announced yesterday their agreement to develop their policies so as to promote a concerted approach to this group of problems in the months leading up to the Bonn Summit meeting in July.

The European Council agreed on Saturday to work towards determination for the higher economic growth that this approach requires. This Budget represents a British contribution towards that common effort as well as meeting our national needs.

On the balance of payments and overseas debt, Mr Healey said:

## Debts repaid ahead of time

Between 1973 and the middle of last year we borrowed large sums overseas to meet the consequences of the oil price increase and the deterioration in our terms of trade. Most of these loans have now been repaid in the six years from 1979 to 1984.

As we moved into balance of payments surplus and rebuilt our reserves last autumn, the Government was able to start facing this lump of debt. It then stood at over £20 billion.

It would not be sensible to aim to pay off the whole of this debt from current account surpluses earned over the next six or seven years. That would add to the problem of current account imbalances in the world, and it would not be consistent with the need to expand our economy.

The Government's aim is, therefore, to combine net repayment of debt year by year, with new borrowing to spread the maturities.

As part of this policy we are now repaying large amounts of debt ahead of time. In January 1978, the Government repaid £1,000 million of debt to the International Monetary Fund.

Arrangements for this payment have recently been completed. I can now announce that I shall be repaying a further £1,000 million to the IMF this year.

This further step is made possible by our own improved position and we hope it will assist the IMF in its efforts to help other countries. This should be a useful contribution to the concerted approach to world problems to which we have committed ourselves.

These IMF repayments will have since October repaid or arranged to repay ahead of time one billion dollars of private market debt.

Thus, these repayments ahead of time, made or already planned, now total £5,000 million. We shall also repay a further £1,000 million on the due dates as other debt matures in the ordinary way.

## Bond issue in New York

The other part of our policy is to make progress with new borrowing. Since last October we have secured £1,000 million from the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community.

In addition we propose to make a British Government bond issue in the New York market. The issue will be for £500 million, in two tranches of seven and 15 years respectively.

Thus it will mature well after the current difficulties.

The United States rating agencies have said they will rate such an issue triple A, the highest rating for any foreign government bond.

I believe that by spreading the burden of debt repayment forwards and backwards in this way we can ensure that it does not unduly restrict our ability to expand our economy and to make an appropriate contribution to world growth.

Our main objective in the coming years, like that of other countries, is to create a more comfortable level of employment by stimulating demand in ways which create jobs at home without fueling inflation.

The temporary employment subsidy and other special employment measures which have now been in operation for three years are already proving in this way to be training places. The Secretary of State for Employment announced a powerful reinforcement to these measures.

By March 1978, which should increase this figure to 400,000 by March next year.

I believe that in a period of high recession such measures bring human and social benefits.

Although the number of men and women available for work has been increasing by 170,000 a year, unemployment has been falling slowly for the last six months and job vacancies have been rising.

But we cannot expect to see the rate of unemployment falling down at an acceptable speed unless we can create new jobs particularly in profitable firms in manufacturing industry (Conservative claim).

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will give a special importance to the needs of smaller businesses.

Now that our economy is in so much better balance and our financial situation is transformed, an improvement in our industrial performance must be our overriding objective since this is a precondition for restoring high employment.

But this improvement is bound to take time. To the extent that industry performance falls short in design, delivery and productivity of that of our competitors, we will have to concentrate on making ourselves competitive in price. It remains as true as ever that inflation is the main enemy of full employment.

Monetary policy will be a decisive factor here. But our price competitiveness will also depend crucially on reducing industrial costs, of which wages are bound to remain the most important element.

Over the last three years, overwhelming public support for pay policy has played an indispensable role in keeping our industry competitive and has helped to avert inflation. The country owes a lasting debt to our trade union movement for its invaluable contribution here. (Labour cheers.)

The Government can help to support common sense and moderation in pay negotiations both by controlling prices and avoiding unnecessary increases in indirect taxes. But the main responsibility here again must continue to lie with the trade unions and employers who negotiate on pay.

In deciding how much stimulus I can afford to give the economy this year, I have to make a judgment about the rate at which our inflation is likely to rise, and to meet the consequent demand and about the competitiveness of the goods it produces.

I must also consider the likely development of the economy over the next year or so if I take no further action at all in this Budget.

These are all difficult questions of judgment on which the margin for error is unfortunately large. Economics is about the behaviour of human beings—the most unpredictable of all creatures. It is a painful task to make a forecast from being an exact science—if it is a science at all.

As I have warned the House on many occasions, the economic forecasts which we make are not infrequently unreliable as they look further ahead, particularly if precise figures are attached to them. But we must be guided, for example, by the forecasts which the House has instructed me to provide. But some trends are fairly clear.

Now that the inflation rate is stabilizing at a level well below the target, the rate of inflation is expected to show a similar increase this year.

Public expenditure on goods and services is expected to rise significantly. It is more difficult to forecast how our trade performance will develop since assumptions about our competitiveness are crucial here.

But it is reasonable to expect that exports will continue to increase substantially, though higher domestic demand will probably lead to faster growth in our imports of manufactures.

This leads me to conclude that without any special measures, the present Budget's economic growth in the coming year by 2 to 2.5 per cent, if as is still the case we make these calculations at the prices which rates of inflation are likely to be in this round. Earnings in fact will be the key to the inflation rate.

Although earnings have increased in the current round far less than most observers expected a few months ago, they are still below the level of 1977, and most of the countries which compete with us, and our productivity is growing more slowly.

Against this broad estimate of the likely growth in the economy without a budget stimulus, the increase in demand which I can afford to generate this year depends critically on the outlook for inflation.

This in turn will depend primarily on two factors: our monetary policy over the next 12 months and the outlook for wage costs. So far as the immediate future the constraints are now firmly established and our success is evident in the figures already available.

Our year-on-year inflation rate is expected to fall to 10 per cent by the end of the year, and to reach 7 per cent in spring or early summer.

Unless there is some quite unforeseeable catastrophe, we are likely to remain fairly close to around 7 per cent for the rest of this year—at about the average rate for most of the industrial countries whose inflation rate has been rising rather than falling in recent months.

If we are to be sure of maintaining at least this level in 1979 then we must have appropriate policies for dealing both with the money supply and with pay and prices.

Monetary policy will continue to play a central role in our attack on inflation.

The money supply figures for banking in March will be published until Thursday, but I think it is right on this occasion to tell the House in advance that sterling M3 grew in March by only one-half per cent and M1 slightly less. This confirms that the trend of monetary growth has come back into the desired range as I predicted after the exceptional but expected jump in January.

The figure for 1977-78 as a whole will probably be just above the 9 to 13 per cent range but under 14 per cent. But this was a year in which the money supply in Britain, as in Germany, was substantially increased by inflows of foreign currency—a factor which we took action to correct last year.

For the coming year 1978-79 I intend to continue using monetary targets, with certain changes.

Over the last year, as we have moved into surplus on our balance of payments, greater attention has rightly focused on sterling M3, the wider measure of money supply, rather than DCE, domestic credit expansion. It is right to recognize this 1977 making a demand for sterling M3 the focus of our monetary policy.

I also intend to adopt a system of rolling targets in which the target is rolled forward once every six months. This will enable me regularly to reassess progress on the monetary front in relation to developments in the rest of the economy, and either to continue with the existing target range or to modify it.

For example, if events have moved as I would hope on counter-inflation policy, it would be appropriate to consider in the autumn whether to reduce it.

The target for sterling M3 for 1978-79 will be £12.5 billion. The corresponding level of DCE will be below the £5,000 million which was set out in the Letter of Intent I wrote to the International Monetary Fund in January.

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and into surplus on our balance of payments, greater attention has rightly focused on sterling M3, the wider measure of money supply, rather than DCE, domestic credit expansion. It is right to recognize this 1977 making a demand for sterling M3 the focus of our monetary policy.

I also intend to adopt a system of rolling targets in which the target is rolled forward once every six months. This will enable me regularly to reassess progress on the monetary front in relation to developments in the rest of the economy, and either to continue with the existing target range or to modify it.

For example, if events have moved as I would hope on counter-inflation policy, it would be appropriate to consider in the autumn whether to reduce it.

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Almost all  
for small

## Higher tax bands changed: no call for sacrifice

from page 6

security benefit levels as many people as I can get together.

I propose this year to raise the allowance for the married couple from £40 to £55 and the allowance for the single person from £20 to £30.

As a result of these increases 360,000 people who would otherwise have been paying income tax in the coming year will not now do so.

Although last October I increased the thresholds for the basic rate of tax by 12 per cent, the cost of these measures will be £2,150m of which nearly £1,000m was paid by the higher rates of tax. I did not raise the allowance for the married couple with more than 11 times average earnings would move into higher rate liability this year.

I propose therefore to raise the upper limit of the basic rate from £5,000 to £7,000. This will mean that a married man with earnings of £8,500 will not be liable to tax at the higher rate even if he is entitled to no allowances other than his married allowance.

As a result 450,000 people who would otherwise be paying tax at the higher rate will not have to do so. This will be of particular advantage to the self-employed, foremen and middle managers.

I propose also to increase the thresholds for the successive higher rate bands.

The 40 per cent band will, as

now, be £1,000 in length. This will be followed by two bands of £1,000, two of £1,500, one of £2,000, one of £2,500 and one of £3,000. The 83 per cent rate will thus be reached at a taxable income of £23,000 as compared with the present £21,000.

There is a similar case for raising the thresholds for the surcharge on investment income.

I propose therefore to raise the general threshold to the 10 per cent rate of surcharge from £1,500 to £1,700 and the threshold to the 15 per cent rate from £2,000 to £2,250 in line with the rise in prices.

However, it is significant that nearly half of those liable to the surcharge are over 65, and two thirds of these have incomes below the higher rate threshold.

In order to assist, let me take first the example of a man earning £75 a week who has a wife and two children under 11. The tax relief in today's Budget will give him an extra £1.82 a week in his pay packet.

As I have said, however, these tax reliefs are only the second phase of the process which I began last October when he got an extra £1.05 a week. From the beginning of this April the new provisions on child benefit and child tax allowances have come into force, as well as the increased national insurance contributions.

Taking all these into account, the £75 a week family is better off

by £3.32 and, when the child benefit rises in November by a further 70p for each child, the family will be better off by a total of £4.72 a week.

But these calculations do not take into account the effects of wage increases over the current year. Taking again the man on £75 a week, if his earnings rise by 10 per cent in accordance with the Government's guideline, his standard of living will rise by nearly 6 per cent in real terms between August 1977 and August 1978 as a result of last October's measures and those I have just described.

The man earning £50 a week will do even better: his living standards will rise by nearly 7.5 per cent.

On the same basis a single man on £75 a week will be about 4.75 per cent better off, and on £50 a week will be just over 6 per cent better off.

Thus I do not in this Budget make any call for sacrifice. With the rate of inflation remaining low, and with these substantial tax reliefs, modest increases in earnings should ensure that real living standards can continue to rise over the year ahead without unduly increasing our industrial costs.

This is the best possible recipe for commercial and industrial success. It is the only recipe for curing unemployment. (Loud cheers.)

The Chancellor spoke for 67 minutes.

When the committee stage of the Scotland Bill was resumed, the Earl of Perth (Ind) moved an amendment to provide for the Scottish Assembly to review the system of voting at any time after the first ordinary election of members by means of a Bill which would have to have parliamentary approval.

He said the amendment introduced the important principle that the assembly should be looked at as a body which had a right to judge whether the way it was chosen was suitable for Scotland.

Lord Tansley (L) said if the Government accepted the amendment it would prove their intentions were of good will and belief in the future of the assembly.

Lord Bingham (Lab) said it was reasonable that if after the first election the assembly wished to have another system of voting they should have the opportunity of putting that view before Parliament. He hoped the Government would not force a division on the issue.

Lord Drumalbyn (C) said what had to be decided, assuming that it was desirable to have some form of provision for review in the Bill, was whether the assembly or Parliament should initiate that review. Under the amendment Parliament would have the last word but the question was who would initiate the review?

Lord Harnham-Nicholls (C) said while he did not necessarily oppose the amendment one had to look at the consequences that could flow from it.

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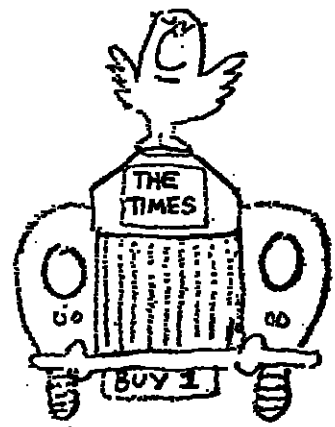
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## Conversion to tax cuts is only a step—Mrs Thatcher

Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (at the Conservative Party Conference, Brighton, 11 April), congratulated Mr Healey on his presentation of the Budget and said that the Government's policy of tax cuts was a step in the right direction, but that the House had to be convinced that the change in the tax system was a long-term one.

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higher proportion to spend themselves.

The Chancellor had set out to get a socialist paradise. All they had to do was to get a socialist paradise. All they had to do was to get a socialist paradise.

take-home pay.

He was increasing borrowing as a proportion of gross domestic product and that gave rise to great dangers in laying the foundation of a future round of inflation. He had undoubtedly overshot the money supply target.

## Government defeated on assembly's power over method of election

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## Urged to reject protectionist attitude

Mr Michel Incardine (France, Dep) said with the Common Market being flooded with imports it was their duty to draw attention to this state of affairs and propose strong and far-reaching measures to put an end to the situation.

Mr Haffkump, replying to the debate, said the Community was vitally dependent on being able to export its goods and that would have to determine its strategy and tactics. They lived by their exports.

expand only if those countries with a lot of economic clout were prepared to help the others who had not.

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## Usual skill and care in pay talks

Mr John Pardo (North Cornwall, L) asked if the Prime Minister had at his last meeting with TUC leaders discussed the need for a new phase of incomes policy and told them that he still believed that current rates were not far from the 5 per cent limit in the next phase.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab) said he would handle this matter with the usual skill and care which he had shown in his previous pay talks.

## Hopes of better industrial relations in health service

The General Whitley Council would shortly consider how to enable the health service to improve its relations with the medical profession and the N.E.S. trade unions.

The meeting was fruitful and hope to follow it up with further joint discussions.

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## Neutron bomb: Soviet response wanted

If there was to be a successful disarmament conference in New York at the end of May it was important for the Soviet Government to respond to President Carter's decision to freeze development of the neutron bomb.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Wiltshire, Con) asked—Before Mr Callaghan went to America, he seemed to express in this House a robust attitude towards the peaceful deployment of enhanced radiation weapons in Europe. Since then President Carter has frozen development of that weapon and rather cut the ground from under the Prime Minister's feet.

caused the matter fully, especially in the light of the disarmament conference coming along.

I do not detract for one moment from the view I expressed in the House before that there are weapons deployed on the Soviet side far more dangerous than the enhanced radiation weapon. Nevertheless it is a political matter for the President alone to decide, as was always the case.

this country and shows the wisdom and statesmanship of the President of the United States?

Mr Callaghan—It is important that the Soviet Government should take note of the deep feeling there is in the Western world about the enhancement of its own weapons and the capacity for improvement which have been substantial.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES IS MICHAEL PARKINSON



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## WEST EUROPE

## Uproar as terrorism trial opens in Berlin

From Gretel Spitzer  
Berlin, April 11

The trial of six members of the "Second of June Movement" who are charged with kidnapping Herr Peter Lorenz, a leading Berlin politician in 1972; murdering a judge in 1974; robbing 10 banks; and breaking into an arms shop, had to be adjourned today after four defence lawyers complained that they had been knocked about by their clients when they visited them in their cells. The four, all of whom were appointed by the court, asked to be allowed to withdraw from the case.

The six accused are: Ralf Reinders, aged 28; Ronald Frutzel, aged 26; Gerald Klöpper, aged 24; Till Meyer, aged 34; Andreas Vogel, aged 22; and Fritz Teufel, aged 34. They took their seats in the two cabins with bullet-proof glass, but refused to give their names. They were identified by the judge.

Herr Teufel, with a red ribbon round his head, marked his entrance by demanding freedom for all and shouting abuse at the court. Some of the other accused, with chewing gum in their mouths most of the time and demonstrating occasionally how long it would stretch, gave their views on capitalism and "the establishment".

After three hours of defence motions on security arrangements, twice interrupted when the court retired for consultation, the court adjourned until tomorrow.

On several occasions Judge Friedrich Gotsch warned the accused and the public that if they continued their unruly behaviour he might exclude them. His conduct of the trial showed, however, that he did not intend to do so unless forced by some really serious incident.

With 600 witnesses and 34 experts to be heard, the trial is expected to drag on for a year, if not two years.

Security measures were strict but body searches of lawyers were not made. This became a hotly disputed issue in the Stuttgart trial of Herr Klaus Croissant, the left-wing lawyer.

Stuttgart: A court here today rejected a claim by Klaus Croissant that charges against him of recruiting for and supporting the Baader-Meinhof group should be thrown out because the indictment was too vague.—Reuter.



President Husak of Czechoslovakia during his talks at Schloss Gyrancich, near Bonn.

## Dr Husak defends his human rights record

Bonn, April 11.—President Husak of Czechoslovakia, who has been under attack from West German news media and parliamentarians over human rights, said in Bonn today that there were very few political prisoners in his country.

He told a press conference that they had been jailed for violating specific laws and not for their views.

Dr Husak, who spent 10 years in jail under the Stalinist regime, was asked how he could have sent others to prison after he took over the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in 1969.

He replied: "In the crisis period of 1968 and afterwards we triumphed by political means and not by forceful repression."

The West German press and Czechoslovak émigrés today continued their attacks on Dr Husak. The Charter 77 human rights movement in an open letter in the newspaper, Frankfurter Rundschau today urged him to stop what it called growing repression. It said that police searches, detentions and

trials of dissidents had increased recently.

A front-page leading article in the General Anzeiger said: "Let us hope that on this occasion we will be spared the kisses on the cheek. The politician from Prague neglects hardly any opportunity to thank the Red Army for marching in 10 years ago."

Dr Husak, who arrived yesterday, had his second round of talks with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, today. The two men later issued a communiqué pledging to continue the policy of détente.

The communiqué also announced that the foreign ministers of both countries would hold talks either in Bonn or Prague at least once a year. "Both sides emphasized the world-wide importance of détente for the development of international relations. They are convinced that no sensible alternative exists to the policy of détente."

The two countries today signed a cultural agreement to expand scientific, educational and artistic exchanges.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 17

## OVERSEAS

## Israelis withdraw from some Lebanese posts but observers dispute extent of pullback

From Michael Knipe  
Jerusalem, April 11

Israeli military forces began to pull back from forward positions in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon today, handing over seven strategic posts to Norwegian units of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the area.

The Israeli Government has made it clear, however, that it will not withdraw its forces completely from southern Lebanon until it considers that the United Nations force is effectively deployed and capable of preventing Palestinian guerrillas from entering the area.

Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Minister of Defence, and General Mordechai Gur, the Chief of Staff, observed today's transfer of control, which took place four weeks after the Israeli invasion began. A thinning of the Israeli forces had been under way for several days before the official handover.

The area transferred is about seven miles long and from one to three miles deep.

The second stage of the partial withdrawal affecting the northern part of the central sector is to take place on Friday. Israel will then wait to see how well the United Nations

polices the area before relinquishing its control over the western sector surrounding the port of Tyre, which is the main Palestinian stronghold.

David Watts writes from near Kawkaba, southern Lebanon: There was no sign of an Israeli withdrawal outside the disputed village of Kawkaba. By mid-afternoon Israeli tanks could still be seen near the hillside village, despite Israeli declarations that they would withdraw from it.

Correspondents who have visited the area during the past few weeks could discern no change in the Israeli positions and United Nations troops from Norway at the scene refused to say whether Israeli forces had pulled back.

Against a background of occasional small-scale fire from Palestinians up the road, who appeared to be shooting at nothing in particular, the Norwegians said that there were difficult negotiations with both sides.

It is understood that the Israelis have demanded that the United Nations take possession of the Hasbaya bridge, now in Palestinian hands, which has been the scene of some of the worst clashes since the cease-fire began. It was at Kawkaba

that the United Nations troops came under fire from the Palestinians at the end of last week.

The Norwegians' apparent discomfort has been made worse by reports in the Israeli press that they had welcomed the Palestinians into Kawkaba, when this was not the case.

A report from a correspondent on the Israeli side of the line in occupied Lebanon said that a small force of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and half-tracks had moved to new positions about one mile west of Kawkaba, some way east of Kawkaba.

Front-line Palestinian fighters at the Hasbaya bridge, about a mile from the Norwegian positions, were visited by Mr Abu Jihad, second-in-command to Mr Yasser Arafat in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and one of the founders of the movement. Mr Jihad observed the Israeli positions from a distance and said: "They have not moved an inch."

Asked what the PLO would do if it were proved that there had been no withdrawal, he said that it would be up to the United Nations Security Council to decide on a course of action on Israel to move back.

Relations between the United Nations troops and the PLO in the area are under strain, partly because the Palestinians argue that they should have possession of Kawkaba, the site of the United Nations headquarters, because it was not captured from them by the Israelis during the invasion. They also object to United Nations attempts to occupy strategic positions in the area instead of just setting up checkpoints on main routes.

There also seems to have been a disagreement over United Nations plans to set up barbed-wire barricades which the Palestinians said would create new borders for Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Beirut newspaper *Al-Nahar* said today that the Arab block at the United Nations was preparing a proposal for an oil blockade of Israel if it did not withdraw from Lebanon within two weeks.

Today the first big batch of refugees began returning to their homes in the coastal area south of Tyre in private cars and Government buses. At one point Mr Weizman paid a surprise visit to one Israeli checkpoint to reassure the returning refugees.



Mr Arkady Shervchenko is now in hiding.

## Protest by Russia over UN man

New York, April 11.—Soviet spokesmen said today that Mr Arkady Shervchenko, the highest Soviet official in the United Nations who is refusing to return to Moscow was a "traitor premeditated" from involving United intelligence services.

In the first Soviet protest since Shervchenko's appointment as Soviet representative to the United Nations, the State Department, with a demand that Shervchenko be returned to the Soviet Union.

The United Nations said today that Mr Shervchenko, 47, had been absent from his post as United Nations representative since his appointment after a dispute with his Government.

The State Department said today that Mr Shervchenko had been absent from his post since last week that he had returned to the United States to inform his family of his appointment.

Mr Shervchenko, who is now in Moscow, was born in 1931. He is a member of the Soviet Union's highest legislative body, the Supreme Soviet, and has held several high posts in the Soviet Government.

What they are saying is a provocation," said Mr Kurt V. Linder, the United Nations General Secretary, who said Mr Shervchenko's decision not to return was "disgraceful".

He did not think the Russian decision was a provocation.

## Palestinian moderates now speaking tough language of the front-line fighting men

## PLO unity on need to go on hitting Israel

From David Watts  
Beirut, April 11

The contrast between the quarters of the militant command of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on the ceasefire line in south Lebanon and those of moderate, intellectual Palestinians in Beirut could hardly be more striking.

But after only a few minutes, contrast with the intellectual in the relative peace of the city it becomes clear that both he and the fighter on the front are now speaking the same language. The cumulative effects of the past eight months of international diplomacy, both in the Arab world and outside it, and the recent fighting with Israel have brought a radical move to militancy in the PLO.

The moderates despair of moderation and the fighters speak of their showing against Israel's might and how it has caused their military progress. Both are united in saying that the only way they can make Israel understand that they have a right to a homeland is to hit the enemy again and again.

By last September the moderates had reached a peak. The extremism of the early seventies, the hijackers and massacres were operations which now found dwindling support.

There were clandestine contacts with the Israelis and the Palestine National Council was holding of the establishment of an independent state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a far cry from earlier years when the attitude had been to reject practically every proposal on Palestine.

For the moderate Palestinians the joint Soviet-American communiqué last October looked as though it would open the way to a Geneva conference, and even the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine did not reject it out of hand.

The communiqué spoke of the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people, but within a week President Carter issued his joint communiqué with Israel which all but ignored the Palestinian question and swore that the United States commitment to Israel was undiminished.

The decline of moderation in the PLO had begun. The communiqué was a sign that the United States was retreating," said Mr Sabri Jirjis, who heads the Israel section of the PLO research department in Beirut. He had been one of the first to call for compromise with Israel.

The first PLO reaction to the visit by President Sadat of Egypt to Jerusalem last November was to reject it. But it was not until the Christmas Day meeting between Mr Sadat and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, that moderation finally became a lost cause in the PLO.

Mr Sadat's visit, the PLO believed, was seeking a comprehensive settlement including the right of the Palestinians to determine their own future. Mr Begin's attitude convinced the PLO that the negotiations could get nowhere.

Had the Sadat initiative had some success and the Israelis shown the slightest sign of willingness to recognize and deal with us, even in a later phase, I think we would have changed our attitude," Mr Jirjis said.

Mr Jirjis said: "The Israelis do not want our moderation and they do not want our extremism. They simply want us to go to hell. Mr Begin helped to drive out 700,000 Palestinians. Now there are two million refugees and when these refugees want to live somewhere and have some rights they have become 'Nasir al-Din'."

Palestinian relations with moderate Arab regimes have also declined over the past few months, and are shaky and unpredictable—at best—with the hardline states such as Syria, Libya, Algeria and South Yemen.

The breach with the Sadat regime after Mr Said Kamal, the Cairo representative, was sent on indefinite leave by the PLO has contributed to the growing sense of isolation which has convinced the Palestinians that the only way out of the general political and political stalemate is to fight.

And in spite of the recent Israeli claims of victory over the Palestinian movement in south Lebanon, they did not actually reach these areas in which the military strength of the PLO lay—the Arzon region near the foot of Mount Hermon. The terrain there is unsuitable for tanks, so the real military power of the Palestinians remains intact.

"I have tried moderation and it does not pay. I am sorry to say, but this is the reality," Mr Jirjis said. "But we are not changing the aim. This is still the same—our own independent state. But the method has to be changed."

UN's role, page 16

## Syrian call ignored in Beirut

Beirut, April 11.—Old foes in the Lebanese civil war exchanged machine-gun fire, and rockets today despite a Syrian warning that gunmen in Beirut would be shot or killed.

Combatants in the Muslim district of Shiyah and the neighbouring Christian one of Ain Rummaneh both reported that at least nine people had been killed and more than 30 wounded.

The fighting erupted on Sunday. Rightist militiamen in Ain Rummaneh and Lebanese leftists in Shiyah ignored the warning of the Syrian-dominated deterrent force policing the truce.

Asked what he thought of the warning by the deterrent force, a rightist militiaman asked: "Deterrent force? Sources said later that the Syrians were moving about 30 tanks from the mountains overlooking Beirut to the combat zone.—Reuter.

## Greece postpones Ankara meeting with Turkey

From Martin Moshano  
Athens, April 11

Greece today put off a meeting of senior Greek and Turkish diplomats, due to be held in Ankara on Friday, because of the strains caused by the American decision to end the arms embargo on Turkey.

The meeting, arranged during the Montreux summit, was to bring together the secretaries-general of the two foreign ministries. The purpose would have been to assess the positive aspects of the discussion between the two prime ministers and to lay the

ground for their next meeting in Washington.

An official said Athens today said side had sought a "technical" reason for new date would be through diplomatic channels.

It was clear, however, that the Greek officials' atmosphere, after Carter's decision to press to lift the embargo, was not conducive to an exchange.

## Gypsies want reparations for killings by Nazis

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, April 11

A decision to seek reparations from West Germany for an estimated half-million Gypsies who died in Nazi extermination camps and to put the money in trust for the education of gypsy children was taken by the second World Romany Congress which ended today.

About a hundred delegates from 26 countries attended the four-day session which set up a 20-member international committee to handle the main problems confronting the world's gypsies. They put their total at about 10 million.

Education is regarded as the first priority by the committee which will seek consultative status with the United Nations and recognition by all governments of the Romany people as an "ethnic group of Indian origin".

Mr Yul Brynner, aged 57, is the honorary president of the congress. His father was Mongolian and his mother Romanian. He spoke of the "spiritual need of the Romany to have recognition not only on technical and legalistic levels but simply on a human level."

He said that for the gypsies travelling "is part of the constant renewal of life in the present... assurance of complete mental health."

The new committee will also make urgent representations to the Council of Europe regarding harassment of gypsy families.

Mr Hughie Smith, the Romany leader in Britain, said that the image of the gypsy there had deteriorated considerably since the last war. "Local authorities are employing licensed thugs, like security men, to evict people like him."

## Judgment next month in Menten appeal

From Our Correspondent  
Amsterdam, April 11

The High Court today heard the summing up by Professor J. Remmelink, the Solicitor General, in the appeal by Pieter Nicolas Menten against his 15-year jail sentence for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

An Amsterdam court convicted the 78-year-old millionaire and art collector on December 14 of having taken part in the mass execution in 1941 of 20 to 30 people, nearly all Jewish, in the village of Podgorce in German-occupied Poland. The village is now part of the Soviet Union.

Mr Menten was acquitted because of lack of evidence of having taken part in mass murders in another village. Both Mr Menten and the public prosecutor appealed against the verdict. The public prosecutor had asked for a life sentence. Judgment will be rendered on May 29.

## Police say arrested man is gang chief

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, April 11

M. Pierre Pourrat, alleged by the police to be the head of the *Gang des Lyonnais*, one of the most powerful crime syndicates in France, was arrested last week, it was announced today.

The gang is believed to be responsible for some of the most sensational hold-ups perpetrated in this country in the past 10 years. It is also strongly suspected of having organized the murder in Lyons in 1975 of a judge who had investigated its activities.

M. Pourrat was arrested at Provins, east of Paris, in a supermarket after a supervisor had found his attitude suspicious.

## Collapse of Tours bridge brings wartime queues

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 11

The city of Tours yesterday seemed to have been plunged into the darkest days of the German occupation. People queued for water at public fountains, and lorries drove around the city's streets distributing the precious liquid at points announced by loudspeakers to the inhabitants.

It is all the result of the unexpected collapse of the Pont Wilson spanning the Loire. A couple of its arches fell into the river on Sunday, and a couple more yesterday. The gas mains and electricity cables were cut along with the water mains.

Gas and electricity supplies have been rapidly restored, but the setting up of a temporary water main across a footbridge will become operational only tomorrow evening and telephone communications will not return to normal until next week.

Most of the hotels, restaurants and cafés have closed down until the water supply is back to normal. Offices are working part time and the central hospital has had to evacuate its emergency cases to neighbouring establishments. There was a rush yesterday on bottled water in the supermarkets.

## Catalan party toes Carrillo line

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, April 11

The three leading members of the Catalan communist party, the PSUC, who resigned last weekend over disagreements about whether to abandon Leninism, have been re-elected to their positions after two days of intense debate.

Their reelection is interpreted as a moral victory for Señor Santiago Carrillo, the head of the Spanish Communist Party, and a strengthening of his Eurocommunist line.

Señor Carrillo has been canvassing support for the abandonment of the Leninist concept in preparation for the national congress next week, when the party is expected to drop it officially.

The president, secretary-general and organizational secretary of the PSUC (the

United Socialist Party of Catalonia), which is the strongest regional communist party, resigned when a majority of the party committee came out against the proposed change.

The PSUC decided at its own congress last year to change from a "Marxist-Leninist party" to one based on the principles of Marxism and Leninism and indicated that Señor Carrillo's idea to become a "revolutionary-Marxist Party" without any reference to Leninism, was unacceptable.

The three Catalan party leaders who felt obliged to resign as Carrillo followers and very much aware that behind what appears to be a matter of mere semantics is a crucial problem for Western communists—a choice between Leninism and Eurocommunism. The reappointment of the

three resulted in the resignation of six other members of the PSUC committee who are considered to be on the right of the PSUC.

A statement issued by the Catalan party said that there were no basic contradictions between what the PSUC congress had approved and what the national congress of Spanish Communists would approve next week. However, the facts suggest that all is not well in the Spanish party as well in the Spanish party as the leadership would like to think, and that the differences have been merely papered over in order to present a united front at next week's congress.

Meanwhile, the Spanish Socialist Party has signed the finished draft of the new democratic constitution. The Socialists withdrew from the inter-party committee responsible for the draft last month after criticizing various articles.

## Belgian Foreign Minister calls America 'spoilt'

Brussels, April 11.—Mr Henri Simonet, the Belgian Foreign Minister, today assailed the United States as "the spoilt child of the Western world."

The world's first economic power, he said, is squandering one third of the energy used in the world and the hub of the international monetary system, is deliberately refusing to assume the responsibilities resulting from its privileged position.

Mr Simonet told the Belgian-American Association that the United States "was acting with a faculty that would not be tolerated in a country of lesser importance," even if that came at the cost of difficult economic change.

President Carter's strategic policies gave even more cause for misunderstanding than his policies on energy and the economy. Europeans are not easily able to explain the behaviour of the United States in the latter fields than they can do at the moment in strategic and military matters," he said.

## Americans note Carter errors

New York, April 11.—The majority of Americans believe that President Carter's lack of experience has been shown by some of the mistakes he has made according to the latest ABC-Harris poll.

The poll says 79 per cent felt that Mr Carter lacked experience, although his popularity has risen since his Latin American and African tours.

Mr Carter made no offer of talks to prevent the rupture but curtly advised Chief Matanzima that the ball was in his court, South Africa is the only country which recognizes the independence of Transkei.

The indications today are that neither government will make a move towards normalizing relations. Transkei's ambassador in Pretoria confirmed that he and his staff would be returning to Umtata by the end of the month.

Mr Vorster, intervening for a second time in the budget debate to reply to the Transkei leader's surprise attack on his Government for allegedly denying East Griqualand to Transkei, claimed that full agreement had been reached in 1974 on its territorial demands.

## US minister to apologize to Britain over bomb

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, will arrive in Britain on Friday to apologize for last week's fiasco in Washington when a deformed neutron bomb.

Mr Brown, who has spent much of the last six months trying to persuade Britain and West Germany to accept the bomb as a means of bolstering the defence of Western Europe, is understood to feel guilty over the way in which they were let down by President Carter's abrupt decision to suspend production.

The weekend visit has been arranged at short notice so that he can explain the American position to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Fred Mulley, the Defence Secretary, before next week's meeting of Nato's Nuclear Planning Group in Denmark.

After defending the concept of the bomb against Soviet criticism, the Prime Minister and Mr Mulley were forced virtually to swallow their own words as a result of President Carter's decision.

Mr Brown is also expected to begin the process of consultation over alternative ways in which the United States could help to strengthen Western defences in Europe.

In particular, he will use his time in Britain to exchange views on the defence of the North Atlantic and on the use of maritime vertical take-off aircraft such as the British Harrier, in which the United

States Navy still has an interest.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: Mr Callaghan told the Commons yesterday that President Carter's decision to postpone production of the neutron bomb would assist the disarmament negotiations now going on. He agreed with what the President had done.

The Prime Minister said he had discussed the matter fully with President Carter in the light of the disarmament conference that was soon to take place in New York.

Mr Callaghan was speaking against the background of bitter criticism of the President's decision by Conservative leaders, notably Sir Ian Gilmour, the Tory defence spokesman.

But the Prime Minister made

clear to those on the left who might be euphoric about the news that there were weapons being deployed by the Soviet side far more than the enhanced weapon, otherwise known as neutron bomb.

Cambridge, Massachusetts, of the inventors of bomb says the news that could be the first of an all-out nuclear war.

Professor George sky, who is 77, said that the neutron bomb was deadly enough to attacking Soviet nuclear Government would instead of stockpiling non-nuclear missiles.

## Vorster rebuke to Transkei over severance of ties

From Eric Marsden  
Johannesburg, April 11

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, administered a cold rebuke in Parliament in Cape Town today to Chief Kaiser Matanzima, the Transkei Prime Minister, who yesterday announced that Transkei was unilaterally breaking diplomatic relations with South Africa.

The move comes only 14 months after it gained independence as the first "bantustan" Homeland.

Mr Vorster made no offer of talks to prevent the rupture but curtly advised Chief Matanzima that the ball was in his court, South Africa is the only country which recognizes the independence of Transkei.

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## Outlook bleak for all-party meeting on Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford  
Lusaka, April 11

British and American diplomats in Lusaka have virtually written off any chances of holding a conference of all the parties involved in the Rhodesian dispute in Livingstone later this month in view of a statement made yesterday by the Rhodesian Interim Government that it was "not in favour" of taking part in it.

British and American representatives were to go to Livingstone tomorrow to make preparations for the meeting. Their journey has now been cancelled.

An American source said that the chances of such a meeting taking place in the near future were "very bleak indeed."

The idea of holding an all-party conference arose during President Carter's recent visit to Nigeria. The plan was for the British and Americans to hold a further meeting with the Patriotic Front guerrilla movement in Dar es Salaam this weekend and for a full-scale conference to take place on April 25.

The Dar es Salaam meeting is still scheduled to take place at the weekend. It will be attended by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner designate, General Prem Chand, the United Nations special repre-

sentative, and Mr Robt Mugabe and Mr R. D. Front.

Observers from the "front" will also be present and Mr Vance planning to fly on an early next week.

Observers here have been a good ch Dar es Salaam result in agreement Patriotic Front or of the Anglo-American proposals.

However, even if reached, the pvt to bring the Pa together with L Rhodesian leaders remain.

The observers p that agreement in Salasam on the Angl plan would have the "locking" the Br Americans into their ment proposals". The intention of Nyerere of Tanzania been concerned by regards as the attitude of the Briti the internal agreem Salisbury. Eleven p a killed man by tary Minister, Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner designate, General Prem Chand, the United Nations special repre-

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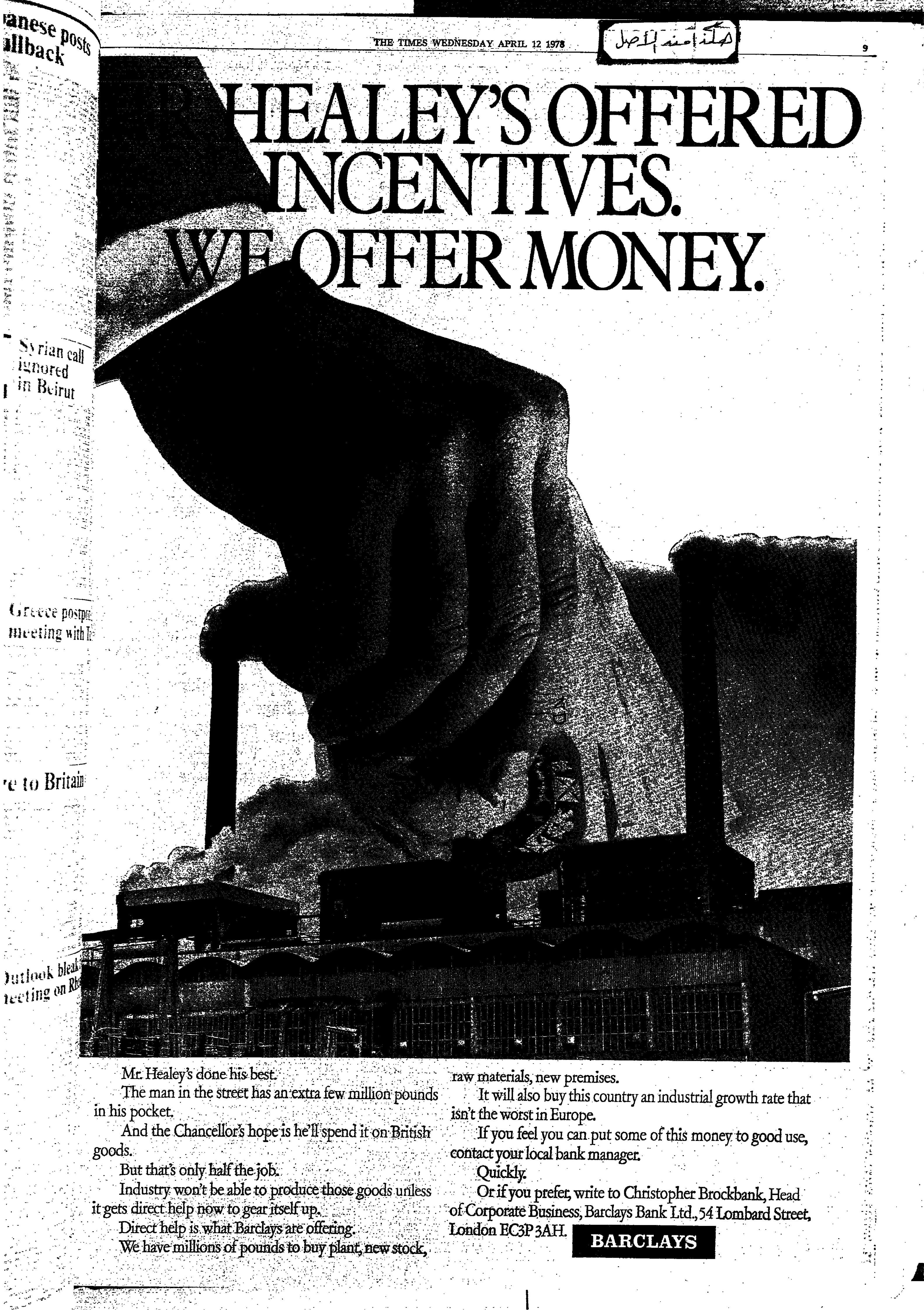
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Selfish

help now  
have millions





Japanese posts  
pullback

Syrian call  
ignored  
in Beirut

Greece postpones  
meeting with Turkey

...re to Britain

Outlook bleak  
meeting on Rhine

# HEALEY'S OFFERED INCENTIVES. WE OFFER MONEY.

Mr. Healey's done his best.  
The man in the street has an extra few million pounds  
in his pocket.  
And the Chancellor's hope is he'll spend it on British  
goods.  
But that's only half the job.  
Industry won't be able to produce those goods unless  
it gets direct help now to gear itself up.  
Direct help is what Barclays are offering.  
We have millions of pounds to buy plant, new stock,

raw materials, new premises.  
It will also buy this country an industrial growth rate that  
isn't the worst in Europe.  
If you feel you can put some of this money to good use,  
contact your local bank manager.  
Quickly.  
Or if you prefer, write to Christopher Brockbank, Head  
of Corporate Business, Barclays Bank Ltd., 54 Lombard Street,  
London EC3P 3AH.

**BARCLAYS**



# OVERSEAS

## Gang of Four radicals blamed for deaths in miscarriage of justice

From David Bonavia  
Hongkong, April 11

An unspecified number of people were killed or injured in the course of a series of "astounding miscarriages of justice" after allegations of arson at a steel plant in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui, according to the provincial radio.

It said that the fire had occurred in 1969 and was used by supporters of the radical "Gang of Four" to persecute some 1,000 people. Only a few months ago were their wrongs redressed.

"Those who were injured or died as a result of being persecuted are being handled as if they had had an accident at work," the radio said. "Relatives and children of those down-trodden cadres and other people are being handled in accordance with the relevant regulations. Those who are ill are being conscientiously cared for."

The disclosures could reflect badly on General Li Teh-sheng, the commander of the north-east military region, who until a year or two ago had political responsibility for Anhui, even though it is some 700 miles from his headquarters in Shenyang.

General Li is suspected by some of having had ties with the erstwhile "gang" centred round Chiang Ching, Chairman

Mao Tse-tung's widow. His political commissar who has been arrested since and widely denounced was Mr Mao Yuan-hsin, Mao's nephew.

Allegations about past political abuses in Anhui province could reflect an erosion of Mr Li's political power. They are similar to the poster campaign conducted in Peking against the city's mayor, Mr Wu Tsh, for men are still members of the Politburo, as far as is known.

Liaoning province, where General Li's headquarters are located, is notorious for having been a hotbed of "radical" activity from 1974 to 1976. Peking: Mr Hao Kuang-leh, a high official in the Inner Mongolian region, has been arrested and accused of "stealing confidential party and state documents" and of "throwing the situation in Inner Mongolia... into disorder".

Mr Hao, who was vice-chairman of the district Revolutionary Committee and Communist Party secretary in Wulanchapu, was also accused of having headed extremists supporting the Gang of Four in Inner Mongolia.

China's Central Military Commission has recommended "a widespread straightening out of army organization and discipline".—Reuter.

## Sociologist strikes odd note in a collectivist society

## Gregarious Russians are advised to sample pleasures of solitude

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow

A Soviet sociologist has recommended that people should spend more time alone. Solitude, he said, was essential for a person's healthy development. People should go for walks by themselves along deserted streets at night, sit in the kitchen when the rest of the family has gone to bed, spend time alone with nature.

In itself the idea is not striking, but in the Soviet context it is remarkable. Russians are hardly ever alone. They do everything in groups—work, live, enjoy themselves. Indeed, from the earliest age they are encouraged to think in terms of the collective: to consider themselves not as individuals but as part of a group. To a Russian, privacy is almost unknown and solitude is confusing.

Writing in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, one of the few Soviet papers to treat sociology seriously, Mr B. Vasilievsky said not enough attention had been paid to the need to be alone. People were always asked what they enjoyed doing in the company of others; they were never asked whether they needed to be alone or how often they were able to be. For those who felt such a need, he said, opportunities were fairly limited.

The Soviet press has frequently condemned the playing of transistor radios in the forest. Mr Vasilievsky plies the person who has such a need for noise. Such a character was afraid of silence. On holiday he could not go for a walk without first forming a group. He always went to a crowded place to enjoy himself in the evenings. Most Russians would immediately put their trust in such a recognizably "collective" character, the article said. But a person was better able to reflect on moral issues when alone. His short-tempered attitude to other people softened. He found out his place in society. "We can see that solitude is therefore socially necessary," Mr Vasilievsky said.

His conclusion flies in the face of everyday life in the Soviet Union. Housing conditions are such that many people do not have rooms to themselves. Holiday resorts are organized for large groups of workers with programmes that leave people barely a minute alone. Children have their free time taken up by the Pioneers (the equivalent of Scouts) or the Komsomol, the Communist youth league. Even soldiers spend off-duty hours in outings to the park or being led round town in groups.

All this seems perfectly normal to the Russians. They are by nature gregarious, and communist ideology has reinforced this trait by emphasizing the collectivist nature of society. Indeed individual initiative, the wish to do something different from others, is regarded with suspicion. A man who wandered round the backstreets in the evenings might well be stopped and questioned; a tourist who struck off on his own would soon run into difficulties.

Soviet restaurants are easily able to handle groups of 20 people; but an individual wanting a meal seems to throw the management into confusion. There is no real word for privacy in Russian. Solitude is the nearest concept. And in many ways Soviet life lacks privacy—public lavatories have no doors, young people have nowhere private to be together, employees' collecting their salaries often turn their names on a list detailing everyone else's salaries. Strangers do not think twice about asking all manner of personal questions or offering unsolicited advice on such matters as how to bring up children. And of course there is no privacy from officialdom which keeps a detailed record of everybody's style of life.

Greater chances for Russians to get away from each other may begin to stimulate a demand for privacy. As yet, however, they seem happy with a communal life that would appeal many westerners.

Regina v McMahon  
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Mr Justice Milmo

Proposed alibi evidence for Graham McMahon, who was charged with the murder of a sub-postmaster at Luton in September, 1969, would be rejected by the Court of Appeal as not likely to be credible, the Court has decided.

The opinion was the first given by the Court of Appeal under similar provisions of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1968, public opinions were given in *R v O'Neill* (1968) 1 All ER 1000 and *R v McCort* (1968) 1 WLR 933.

In *McCort* Lord Goddard stated that, as a rule, when such a reference was made in public because it was a matter of importance—sending an offender back to Ireland—for the guidance of the courts.

In *O'Neill* an opinion on a question of law was given in public because the court considered it to be of a point of importance in the law.

In no case has counsel appeared. The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that four men were arrested in respect of the murder. They were: Patrick Collins, David Cooper and McMahon. The fourth man, who was not named, was a friend of McMahon's.

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the circumstances giving rise to the reference in a judgment. On April 2, 1977, Messrs Bindman & Partners, solicitors acting for McMahon, forwarded to the Secretary of State a statement which had been made on April 2, 1977, by Mr Richard Evans, in which Mr Evans claimed to have seen McMahon in the East End of London twice on one day some years previously. He could not remember the precise date, but in connection with a statement by a Mr Frederick Lawrence, dated March 13, 1977, which was subsequently made available to the solicitors, an alibi witness statement for McMahon made by Mr Lawrence before the trial and other evidence given on McMahon's behalf at the trial, it could be inferred that the alleged sightings took place on the day of the sub-postmaster's murder, and that the timing of the later one was incompatible with Mr McMahon's presence in Luton at the time the murder was committed.

The point at which the Secretary of State required the opinion of the court was: "If the evidence of the Evans and the further evidence of Mr Lawrence were considered in the course of an appeal against the conviction under section 2(1)(a) of the 1968 Act, would the court regard themselves as required to receive it by virtue of section 2(2) of the Act?"

Their Lordships had considered the point. The obligation to admit evidence in section 2(1)(a) of the 1968 Act, which provided: "(2) ... where evidence is tendered to the Court of Appeal ... the court shall, unless it is satisfied that the evidence is not credible, admit it."

The fresh evidence tendered was inadmissible in the proceedings from which the appeal was brought, and it was not the subject of the appeal; and (b) they are satisfied that it was not produced in those proceedings but that it is a reasonable explanation for the failure to adduce it."

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Further, it was now revealed that Lawrence was at the Central Criminal Court during the trial as a potential (though uncalled) alibi witness for McMahon. Two statements made by him were inconsistent as to his means of transport to and from court.

The fresh evidence to which the reference related did not justify an inference that the events referred to took place on September 10, 1969, and such evidence would not be admitted on the hearing because, if received, it "would not afford any ground for allowing the appeal". Further, it described in detail events which had occurred some eight years ago. Despite intense efforts to find alibi evidence to support McMahon, the evidence was not previously forthcoming.

In their Lordships' opinion the evidence should properly be rejected as "not likely to be credible".

The Secretary of State described the evidence as "not likely to be credible".

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## President Marcos frees 500 marchers

Manila, April 11.—President Marcos tonight ordered the release of more than 500 people detained for taking part in a peaceful march on Sunday in protest against the "death of freedom and democracy" in the Philippines, an official announcement said.

Former Senator Lorenzo Tanada, aged 76, one of the country's most respected lawyers and campaign manager of the opposition People's Power party in last Friday's elections, and six other party members, including four candidates, were excluded from the release order, however, the presidential palace said.

The announcement said Mr Tanada and the six others were the leaders and organizers of the march in which those taking part "openly advocated the use of violence against the Government".

General Marcos's decision was in accordance with "a national policy of conciliation to bring together all the various factions in society", the announcement said. It described most of those arrested as first offenders "who probably did not know the full implication of their participation in the march".

Charges of illegal assembly and inciting to rebellion had earlier been laid before a military court against all of them but today's announcement said President Marcos had indicated that the charges might be referred to a civil court.

The President ordered the release of six nuns and a priest yesterday, but the authorities said that release did not mean the charges against them had been dropped.

Philippines security forces raided a Roman Catholic mission near Manila today and seized large quantities of documents.

The documents, taken away in a lorry from the Jesuit priests' Loyola house of studies, will be analyzed by experts, a military spokesman said. The documents belonged to an organizer of a protest march identified as Ricardo Dong.

Security forces also said they had seized a firearm and several documents from the house of Miss Charito Pianas, an opposition candidate in last week's election. They alleged that the house was used as a refuge by the underground communist New People's Army.

The raids came after President Marcos said his advisers were planning a full-scale armed offensive after the elections.

About 85,000 wards voted on Friday, but the Government's election commission has still declared only a fraction of the results. The People's Power party, led from jail by former Senator Benigno Aquino, has polled about 40 per cent of the votes counted so far.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

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Cosmonauts honoured: President Brezhnev (foreground) yesterday decorated five Soviet cosmonauts and one Czechoslovak for their role in the record 96-day space mission on board the Salyut 6 orbital station. They are from right to left: Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko and Flight Engineer Georgy Grechko, who both returned to earth on March 16 setting the record for the longest manned space flight, and Colonel Vladimir Dzhanibekov, Mr Oleg Makarov, Captain Vladimir Remek (the Czechoslovak) and Colonel Alexei Gubarev, the four who visited them on board the Salyut on missions in January and March.—Reuter.

## Mr Ceausescu seeks new US pledge

From Dossa Trevisan  
Belgrade, April 11

President Ceausescu of Romania left Bucharest today on a six-day state visit to Washington, his fourth within eight years.

That in itself demonstrates the state of relations between Romania and the United States, but even more so the interest Washington has been showing for a decade in Romania's independent foreign policy.

This has won a special place for Mr Ceausescu's country as the only one in the Soviet bloc maintaining good relations with everybody.

The Romanians hope that President Carter will renew the pledge made by both President

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The Romanians hope that President Carter will renew the pledge made by both President

## Diplomat's wife falls to her death from flat

Moscow, April 11.—Mrs Nihali Bilgin, the wife of Colonel Niyaci Bilgin, a Turkish military attaché, committed suicide here today by throwing herself from the balcony of their eighth floor flat, a Turkish Embassy spokesman said.

Mrs Bilgin was believed to have died instantly, he said. "She committed suicide because of mental disorders."

Like other foreign residents in Moscow, the couple lived in a block of flats reserved for foreign diplomats, journalists and businessmen.—Reuter.

## Wife to wage political fight for right to emigrate

Moscow, April 11.—While doctors sought to save the life of Mrs Antonina Agapova, her daughter-in-law said she has applied to join the Helsinki monitoring group in Moscow to start a political fight for the right to emigrate.

"Let the Soviet state not question why we are dissidents and renegades," Mrs Lyudmila Agapova said. "I was as apolitical as everybody who lives in this country. It is they who brought us to it."

Mrs Agapova, aged 39, has been seeking for four years to emigrate to Sweden with her mother-in-law and daughter to join her husband, Valentin Agapova, a merchant seaman, who defected in 1974.

## Police brutality alleged to be widespread in Poland

Warsaw, April 11.—Poland's dissident Public Self-Defence Committee has published a report alleging widespread brutality by the police and claiming that prosecutors, courts, experts and doctors conspired to stop policemen being punished.

The committee said that its investigations showed that "violation of the law is a principle of the functioning of the organs of law enforcement." Most of the report concerned 10 cases of alleged police mistreatment, in seven of which the victims died.

None of the cases, which date between 1971 and 1977, had any obvious political significance, the report said. Several of them involved drunks.

In most of the cases, which were only a few of the many which had come to the committee's attention, either no action was taken against the police or investigations were dropped.

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## Cautioning persons taking part in affrays

Regina v Halford  
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Mr Justice Drake

[Judgment delivered April 6]

How the Judges' Rules on cautioning a person before he makes a statement should be applied by police officers called to break up an affray was considered by the Court of Appeal.

Their Lordships refused Paul Robert Halford, aged 23, leave to appeal against a conviction under section 2(1)(a) of the Criminal Justice Act, 1968, for affray.

Rule II of the Judges' Rules, 1964, provides that a police officer should have evidence which would afford reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has committed an offence, before cautioning that person.

Mr David Farrer for the applicant, Mr David Brunning for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the trouble broke out at a St Valentine's Day dance at a hospital soon after midnight. When the police arrived they found the scene of a riot. The police were told that two days he made uncautioned statements. Each statement included some fairly serious allegations against the police.

Some days later, after further police inquiries, a statement under the caution required by rule II of the Judges' Rules. There was no suggestion that the statement was untrue, but it was not supported by any evidence.

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From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, April 11

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A mixed tribunal















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ALSO ON PAGES 29 AND 30

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tial. Please phone—

Tricia Cairns on

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## Guest Column

Yesterday's illegality is tomorrow's accepted morality. Our society has to keep the deeply rooted urges to conserve and to change in a fruitful tension with each other. If either gets out of hand, the resulting clash will be painful and perhaps even bloody. When change is too fast we experience discrimination leading to a conservatism backlash; when it is too slow, the front-runners in the movement for change will be driven by frustration and the mounting pressure behind them to throw themselves at the barrier of inertia in an effort to move it.

Democracy is meant to regulate this process. But it is often an imperfect regulator. In a properly working democracy martyrs shouldn't be necessary, and yet they seem to happen in all movements for change. The classic case is of course the women's suffrage campaign.

From the publication of William Thompson's first statement of the suffragist case in 1825 until the passing of the Bill giving women the vote was nearly a hundred years. It was, however, only in the last ten years that the suffragettes moved into a phase of active militancy. The first woman was sent to Holloway for suffragette action (slapping a policeman who had tried to interfere with a demonstration) in 1906. From then on militancy escalated to arson and bombings while the movement as a whole continued to include the more usual methods of political pressure: demonstration, petition and lobby.

Six years ago I wrote a novel (*I Want to Go to Moscow*) predicting that, unless there was some appreciable political action in the field of animal welfare, the animal rights movement would in its frustration reach the point which the Votes for Women campaign reached in 1906. Interestingly, just over a hundred years have now passed since the first anti-vivisection society was founded. Perhaps a century of frustration is all the political animal can tolerate.

The activists are, of course, only the tip of the animal welfare iceberg. Behind them and broadly supporting their aims although sometimes deprecating their methods are thousands of people involved in the more traditional organisations who give their time and money. Behind them again are the hundreds of thousands who sign petitions like the National Anti-Vivisection Society's latest one, shortly to be presented to Parliament with over 200,000 signatures, calling for a commission of enquiry.

The militants would argue that they too have collected signatures in the past, notably for the anti-hare-coursing Bill of 1976, which foundered in the Lords adding greater fuel to a growing cynicism. Suddenly there seemed nothing to be gained from the old, protracted legal methods and little to be lost by taking the law into your own hands and breaking it.

The League Against Cruel Sports, which bases its work on the legislative process, can, however, point to a notable recent achievement in the abolition of otter hunting in England and Wales by getting the otter put on the list of protected species. Their press campaign in connection with this brought them donations and new members by the sickle, "beyond anything we could have dreamed of".

Protecting the otter in this way was a piece of nifty footwork that probably can't be used again. It can be argued that it established no principle about hunting in general but merely removed one creature from the prey list. Certainly the method won't hold for foxes.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association goes out against the hunts themselves every Saturday. (The hunts may be out against foxes as many as three or four days a week.) The "sabs" attempt to confuse the hounds with false halloo and calls on the hunting horn and by spraying anti-mine on the hounds or the ground. They are nationally organized into 20 to 30 groups, although some members prefer to work alone or in smaller numbers.

## Why animal lovers become hunt saboteurs



Novelist  
Maureen Duffy  
writes  
this week's guest  
column

They include in their remit hare-coursing, which they regard as a form of hunting. In the last two years many of them have been arrested at the annual major hare-coursing event, the Waterloo Cup. In 1976, 39 people were arrested. "We all waited while the first hare was coursed. One hundred and eighty of us stood there in silence. Then, when it got away, there was a great cry. When the second hare appeared, we all ran together onto the field. Nobody had organized it. It was just something that went through everybody."

Thirty-six people were found guilty of insulting behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and bound over. Activities likely to cause a breach of the peace are the ones which the hunt saboteurs can be most often said to be engaged in. If I express my moral disapproval of your actions and you hit me, I have caused a breach of the peace. There is no inalienable right to demonstrate or to publicly express one's views.

The sabs themselves are bound by their constitution to non-violence. No constitution binds the hunters and the hunt followers. Sabs have been horsewhipped, ridden down, struck and, on one occasion, beaten savagely with other poles. Their leaders have been done over by things, their homes besieged with telephone calls and anonymous letters, threatening to burn down their houses, throw acid in the faces of wives and girlfriends, poison their animals. Once the local Hell's Angels were offered money to go out against them. Sometimes when they are the victims of violence they themselves end up in prison, as in the case of Mrs. Valerie Waters, who spent a month in jail after refusing to be bound over to keep the peace in a trial which she had attended only as a prosecution witness.

Mrs Sue Hough went to Holloway for refusing to be bound over. Such a refusal is contempt of court, but the activist who

wants to continue what he is morally correct behaviour and is right as a free Englishman can binding over unless he is prepared and the strong almost Quaker in many activists may make it sible.

Sue Hough's husband David, three men currently serving a sentence for allegedly vandalising Peel's grave. All three claim innocent. They were arrested, called to the police computer system, picked at a service station miles from the grave belonging to that she is a member of Saboteurs Association.

Saboteurs allege a noticeable against them on the part of the huntmen leads to something for other methods of action, and here their militant them over the boundary of the and into the criminal activity front-line activists for whom the horrors of the animal concern in factory farms and laborious wait for legal solutions.

In the period August 1976 1977 there were ten raids on to damage valued at up to £18,000, usually to the damaged vehicles or tack. They are allied to and claimed by phobus Animal Liberation Front as "not so much an organic state of anger and frustration as a conscious policy in the in the building in September an estimated total of nearly damage."

The chief subjects are the breeders and experimenters. period they were hit 16 times them more than once. In animals, mainly dogs, were the "communist" claim that they mean highly increased on security and that in a way they have driven breeders out of an important objective of the breeders' records. Files are target in raids on the off Research Defence Society and Field Sports Society.

Like their legal counterparts activists, who operate within ALF are not vegetarians or ve as no national organization. Me on a call and need-to-know Animal Activists, a rapid organization mainly for young want more action than the organizations provide but w legal concentrates on demos Harrods fur sale and Crufts occasions for demos.

Between the two lies the big that brought five people to Lewes on February 8 after dozen battery hens to show to Ministry of Agriculture that inspection methods for s derogatory.

Seven people are currently jail sentences for militant ac activists. Another has just Two are awaiting trial. It been acquitted of burglary, two years, more than 60 appeared in court on less breach of the peace or in driving at hunts. They have bound over and sometimes j All this adds up to a giv frustration erupting into act (of property), burglary, wit impromptu, violent faced and aced wise idealistic and compass feel driven beyond the law indifference of Parliam however secretary of the in pus it: Hunting is going to one day. Why do we need have to wait, for ten years before Parliament expected of it?"

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 197

## Children's Books

## Soaring to success on the wings of a Puffin

A little local difficulty got in the way of announcing the opening of the eleventh Puffin Show at the Mall since the show has now closed it may seem frustrating to everyone to say how good it was. The Mall Galleries gave it more space—or at least better organized space—than it has received at other venues in recent years, and there was a zest and brightness about the display (Puffin Himself at the Space Dome of the Future) and the activities (mask-making, Unicorn drama days, etc) that put the show high among Easter holiday entertainments for children in London.

This is as it should be. For Puffin Books have come to stand as one of the great good deeds in a world that has frequently been naughty or indifferent or patronizing towards its children, and the Puffin show symbolizes the breadth of sympathy behind the enterprise. Furthermore, it gives a chance to a wider public to see how readers the children themselves are to respond to the liberating force of Puffins, and through its display of children's own creative work it offers grounds for considerable optimism about the stimulus which a book-based campaign for entertainment can offer. On this occasion the event that most happily concerns this belief was surely the publication during the show what was labelled the one thousandth Puffin Book: *The Crack-a-Joke Book* chosen by children in aid of Oxfam (50p)—good luck for Oxfam, too, since the first printing sold out in the first three days.

In curmudgeonly fashion I have shown elsewhere that this *Crack-a-Joke Book* is not by any means the one thousandth Puffin (I make it the one thousand four hundred and twenty third), nor is it even the 119 Puffin Picture Books, which were the brainchildren of Noel Carrington and which began the whole series in 1940. These were the precursors of Puffin Story Books, which began with Eleanor Graham as editor, in 1941, and they remain a model of simple, elegant and humane non-fiction publishing for children.

Such horrid, unjoking rationalism is based upon a brutal statistical analysis (mostly conducted by my 14-year-old son) which takes into account a multitude of wandering Puffins who are not always reckoned up as part of the family. Much the most important group of these are the 119 Puffin Picture Books, which were the brainchildren of Noel Carrington and which began the whole series in 1940. These were the precursors of Puffin Story Books, which began with Eleanor Graham as editor, in 1941, and they remain a model of simple, elegant and humane non-fiction publishing for children.

That meeting in 1963 was significant in allowing the double edge to Kaye Webb's attack on the future: a policy of imaginative paperback publishing, coupled with a

Under the mellowing influence of the *Crack-a-Joke Book* however ("What happens if you dial 666?"—A policeman comes along upside down.") it seems to me that statisticians and curmudgeons might be allowed to juggle their figures to prove a different case: that this celebratory volume is taken all-round, one-way-and-another, rough-with-smooth, and no forgetting the picking round about the one thousandth Puffin title that has appeared under the general editorship of Kaye Webb. For if we need to find a reason for a publishing junker (and after all, no less a company than the Oxford University Press is this year finding one) then there can be few better reasons than that of Kaye Webb's inspired direction of Puffins.

She came to the company in 1961, as the choice of Allen Lane to succeed the retiring Eleanor Graham, and, with amazing energy, she set about building upon the firm foundation which Miss Graham had laid without compromising the ideals that were integral to the Penguin way of life. At the time of her appointment I was working for a bookseller, specializing in children's books, and I recall that her impact then was that of a modest, but determined tornado. Book racks were secured, brains were picked, debates were held to judge ways in which the Puffin list might grow and might reach a wider public. The results speak for themselves.

On one occasion there was a meeting with a lot of school librarians somewhere in the direction of Harlow. These sober souls had come along expecting to hear some plain facts about how books were printed, and to ask touchy questions about prices, and instead they were confounded by an assault on their preconceptions about children's reading. Why was there so much drab conformity about school reading programmes? What book would teachers really like to be cheaply available to their pupils? What sort of fun did children get out of reading?

Needless to say, the teachers were surprised. They had not thought that fun was their province, and they had not expected a publisher to be concerned in extrovert manner with everyday affairs. (There was even an indecise joke.)

That meeting in 1963 was significant in allowing the double edge to Kaye Webb's attack on the future: a policy of imaginative paperback publishing, coupled with a

determination to involve as many as possible in the reading of books. The result was the creation of the Puffin list (with so much masterpieces as *Moonfleet*, and *The M* appeared)—and the come books by authors whose pub to release hardback titles, help me to a cake for Wil said Kaye, "he's at home w and he must have cake".

The second policy led to the founding of the Puffin brilliant organization has ce children's interests from th read to the world about th has arranged countless pay days for children through Kingdom, and has engaged projects as buying a mile to preserve real puffins and to buy a million for handies by organizing "the great- ence". In its magazine P Club possesses almost the children's periodical of ou through a separate, but com- lopment—the Puffin Book design of the early years. pleated: the selling of P children in school.

Kaye Webb was presiding in 1961. At that time back revolution" had bare there was certainly no serio from other publishers of d backs. Since that time that has burgeoned and the c titles and bookshop and increase. (Two competitors Beaver Books) have even I compliment of following: of their device on the front books.) It is an altogether I but perhaps a more stimu judging by the detonation *a-Joke Book*, and the effec of the new titles that have side it (Russell Hoban's *Captain Watkin and his Hi* or *Mr McDonald's Maggy the Beautiful Ice-cream M* that Kaye still relishes co-

Brit

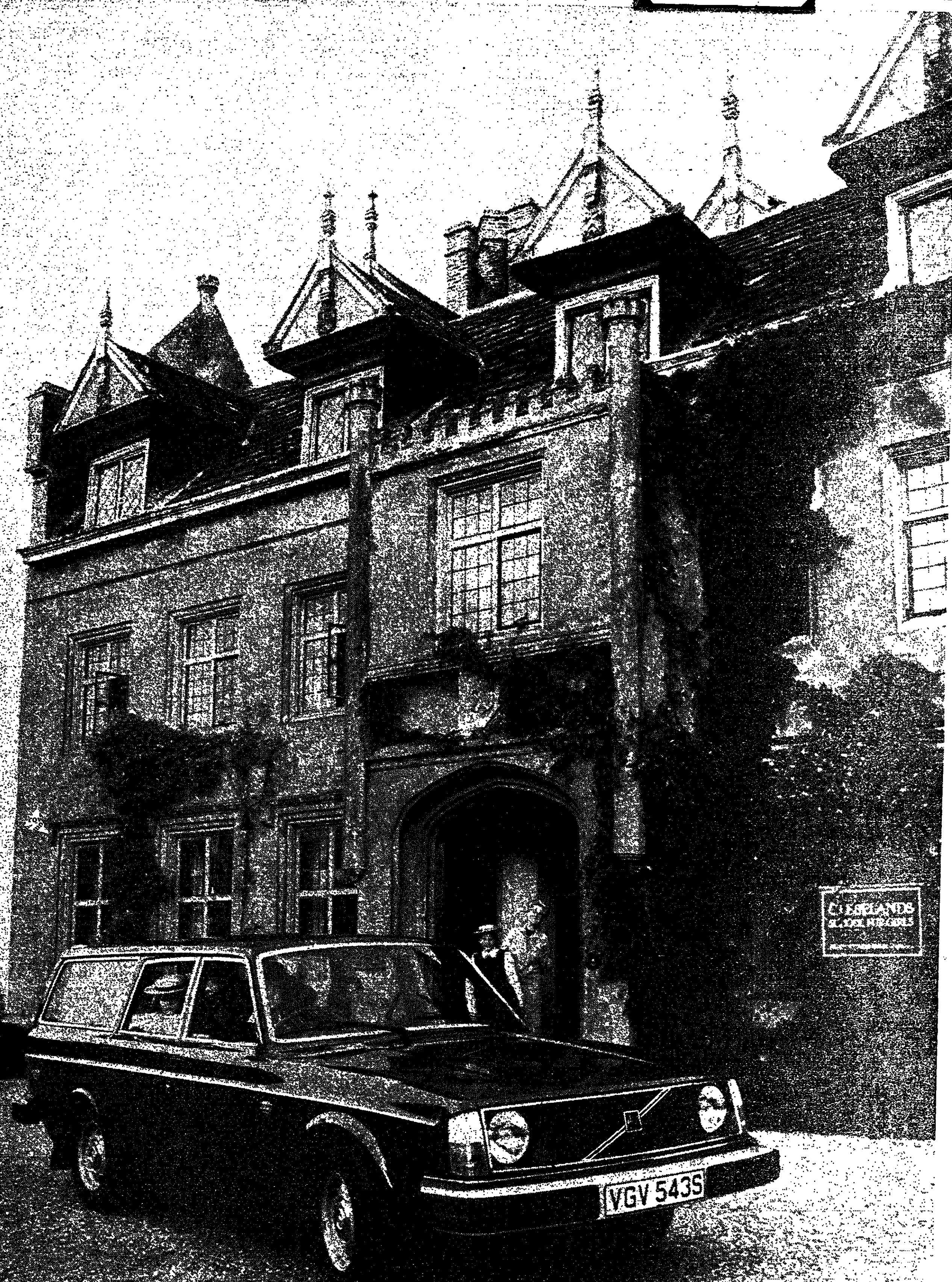
Inquiries about the Puffin the Puffin Book Club can be sent to Puffin Books, London W.C.2.



by animal  
become ham  
aboteurs

Selfish

line in  
the wings  
Pattin



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IT'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME.



## The grim task of keeping the peace in Lebanon

RECIPE FOR

here, said the man  
ing. He was absolute  
rusty). Instead of th  
ne from a cloudless  
freezing. The childre  
d. They tobogganned  
and made a snowman.

230988



Budget that Mr Denis presented yesterday had a number of major objectives. It intended to be a popular budget and may well be the last before the general election was intended to deal with the problem of unemployment, the problem of inflation, intended to improve income-cutting direct taxation and it had to guard against continuation of the rising increase in the money borrowing requirement of £8,500m. This is nearly £3,000 million higher than the actual outturn for the previous financial year; unless there is again a substantial degree of underspending there are likely to be problems in selling sufficient government stock on what could for some months be a falling market.

The targets for growth in the economy are not themselves convincing. At 1975 prices the Chan-

the event it proved a fully contradictory Budget, one striking decision was announcement of an increase in minimum lending rate from 5 per cent. to 7.5 per cent. in a statement which was made in aid of the Chancellor's Budget.

That did not seem to rest of the Chancellor's mind; one was left with the notion that the Chancellor originally prepared the plan on a different and more realistic set of assumptions had gradually been falsified by the trends of the last two years.

To be forced to raise interest rates is not the best stimulus for an expansion that would reduce unemployment.

The decision to raise the minimum lending rate may well prove the wisest decision that the Chancellor took. The prolonged rise of the dollar has led in the dollar becoming valued relative to sterling, the British money supply is increasing a good deal less than the American. Interest rates in the United States are as high as ours and expected to climb further. It is in no position to hold an interest rate gap with the dollar.

An increase in minimum lending rate was therefore a wise monetary move and the current interest rates is still that it'll go higher. The rest of the government's strategy involving the rate that the pound M3 has been reduced to a target of 5 per cent, but that is not our effort to bring M3 permanently back into figures. After all a 12 per cent rate of growth for M3 assumes a long-term inflation not far below 5 per cent. It could prove to be considerably higher in 1979, that the momentum of the rise in interest rates has exhausted, it will not be as the Chancellor says to the new public sector.

Mr Healey has left the top

int Husak of Czechoslovakia a very banal villain, a narrow-minded, authoritarianist who has ruled over years of oppressive immobility. He now comes blinking in his darkened country on its official visit to a NATO staff office in Bonn. The visit has been criticized in West Germany for the very good reason that the present regime in Czechoslovakia is not one with whom respectable people should deal. It has practically no contact with its citizens and is incapable of meeting their wishes or furthering their interests. However, the visit can be turned to good use if it is the people of Czechoslovakia who are to be helped. Dr. Husak is a good director of the country's economic and political affairs and a good manager of its officials.

Some ways the situation in Czechoslovakia is reminiscent of early 1960s, when economic reforms led to a halt under a very unimaginative rule of Klement Gottwald. There is the same feeling that nothing is working properly, that people with talent are excluded from responsibility at the highest level, and that culture is neglected. The economy is not being run properly to the higher standards of Soviet raw materials and Western capital goods. Productivity and quality are not improving fast enough, and

exports to non-socialist countries have lagged behind planned targets. As in the 1960s some piecemeal reforms are being attempted in that selected enterprises are being given greater responsibility and a more direct material interest in the needs of their customers, but no great hopes can be pinned on this experiment.

The difference with the 1960s is that there is no nucleus of determined and optimistic reformers within the party. Nearly all the people responsible for the Prague Spring of 1968 have been expelled from the party, have left the country, or are dead. A few have made their careers with the present regime and could hardly find their way back again to reform. The party now consists mostly of mediocre opportunists. Nor is there now a clear concept of where reform could lead. When Eastern Europe was slowly extricating itself from Stalinism it was easy to hope for some form of reformed and liberalized communism. Now, in spite of the efforts of West European communist parties, the ideological conviction is mostly lacking. In its place there is a more limited form of pragmatism which is not without success in some countries or proponents within the Czechoslovak party, but Czechoslovakia has the special problem

that any move to reform or reconciliation is likely to revive the hopes of 1968.

The result is a different factional leadership prevented from introducing the most minor changes, powerful attacks on the poor economic management of the present regime, the severe consequences for the pragmatic subsequent dismissals of assumed allies, party secretary Bohemian, suggestions that he has for the moment no opponents. Chances are that he will stay in Moscow. Meanwhile still being pressed to prison for essential offences, while highly qualified people are excluded from the party and sometimes expelled at all, because they lack the necessary language skills. The light is provided by Charter 77, the notion of civil rights continues to be publicized, the release of illegal offences against the rights of the people. It is to be hoped that the German Government will support Husak of its country people.

The Vice-Chancellor and  
of Brunel University

the letter you published on  
23, Professor Sir Ewart  
complains of the dispar-  
expense of applying  
safety precautions to  
buildings, some of which  
stood for centuries unharmed

word here is, dispropor-  
Absolute safety is  
stable and any good safety  
can think of a way of  
reducing a hazard which is  
negligible. There is no con-  
in him to decide whether  
penditure is reasonable and  
he can be called to account  
if he recommends too little,  
if he recommends too much.  
In the same position as the  
ial consulting engineer who  
his clients to double the  
of their dam wall since  
could hardly be expected  
this reputation for the sake  
a million tons of con-

possible solution might be  
authority such as the Health  
Safety Executive to get  
of fixing the total sums  
which it was considered  
able to spend on new fire  
insurances in any area in any  
year. In deciding the figure  
the rate of accidents and loss  
fires would be considered in  
to the costs of other hazards

The fire officer would then be  
charged with recommending the  
most urgent work to be undertaken  
within a given limit. He would still  
be held accountable if modifications  
which were really necessary were  
left undone but he would have  
every incentive not to fritter  
resources away on less important  
projects.

In fact such a procedure might  
force those responsible to consider  
the safety of an area as a whole,  
including fire, explosion, roads,  
factories and homes, and not as a  
series of isolated elements subject  
to different rules. Resources could  
then be concentrated where they  
were most needed.

Yours faithfully,  
S. L. BRAGG,  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal,  
Brunel University,  
Uxbridge,  
Middlesex.

**Badgers and tuberculosis**

From Mr K. L. Vaughan

Sir, With reference to his letter of  
April 4, no doubt the figures as  
given by the Chief Veterinary  
Officer are correct. But there is  
another side to the question.

We, as a profession, have created  
a badger scare, a badger national  
hate. We have tested and  
slaughtered until we fear any animal  
which may transmit the disease.  
Surely, some years ago, we should

should have no  
are doing the same  
brucellosis now.

How many human  
resources have been  
slaughtered than 70  
with BCG those w  
Let us not confu  
tend to be host ag  
resources, to be  
including the bad  
Yours faithfully,  
K. L. VAUGHAN,  
The Vime Veterin  
Upton,  
Naseaton,  
Warwickshire.

**A national lot**

From the Reverend  
Williams

Sir, A national lot  
in order to banish  
process, further  
national gambling  
urge is a trend for  
years by Premier  
competitions with  
lucky number dra  
contemporary  
depicted, can be  
as "Get us more  
where you are  
Could there, ju  
connection?"

Yours faithfully,  
E. H. B. WILLIAMS,  
19 Yardley Wood R  
Birmingham.

From Mr. K. L. Vaughan  
Sir, With reference to his letter of April 4, no doubt the figures as given by the Chief Veterinary Officer are correct. But there is another side to the question.  
We, as a profession, have created a tuberculosis sensitive national herd. We have tested and slaughtered until we fear any animal which may transmit the disease. Surely, some years ago, we should

Sir, Listening to the general debate on North Sea oil I am more and more convinced that the royalty income that Great Britain is receiving and will receive must be treated as capital and not income if it is not, in the long run to do more harm than good. If this is accepted, then it is necessary to plan priorities for investing this money, so that it is not frittered away on non-productive projects.

I am not competent to make such a list myself, but there are certain possibilities which I hope will be given serious consideration. Oil is a basic world commodity, and it would be inappropriate to wish some of our own surplus income in the commodity world as follows:

1. Establishment of a world commodity centre in London. Plans are far advanced for this project for the City of London, and it is possible that the majority of the international associations are already here, but are desperate for suitable accommodation and large conference facilities. A site has been found at St. James's Park, and the necessary prepared and government departments concerned have supported the idea, but are not prepared to put up the £10 million required. Foreign exchange earnings are estimated to be the equivalent of the £10 million already from the activities that are now carried out in London and will increase. The building is very likely to earn an economic return very quickly, if not from the start. It would be much to ensure that the City of London is the international money market of the world.
2. Pump-priming of new "buffer stock" schemes. Once they are

Sir, I would not condemn the recent Conservative policy statement on immigration outright, purely on the grounds of it being an election winning adoption. I believe that the Conservative leadership does see itself as reflecting increasing concern expressed at constituency level. However, there are two distinct ways in which to allay people's fears about immigration.

The easy way is that of making cosmetic changes in immigration policy which only serves to persecute those at the margin, and these latest proposals are marginal—they will only make a difference of a few shoddies. At a time when net migration is outward, and looking at the groups affected by the proposals, I find it difficult to see how Mr Whitelaw can square these measures with his view of the "Conservative Party, with its long traditions of humanity and understanding".

Grandparents with families in this country will only be allowed in if they have a family dependent on them. Due to the difficulties of proving this, this measure will effectively prevent many elderly people from spending their declining years

with their children and grandchildren. Quotes on the entry of dependents will mean enforced periods of absence for dependents periods being continued. When similar measures are instigated by the Soviet Union to keep families apart like this we rightly denounce the Russian regime as repressive. Is it not a little odd to demand twenty(?) solutions to a living fear is by a process of education, and concern for the problems of those areas were racial tension is strong. The party should help to allay fears by participating in a broad based discussion and campaign against racialism, along the lines of that run by the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) and the NUS. The running of such a campaign involves cooperation between the party and other groups, including student and civic groups, trade unions, churches, etc. in the printing and distribution of leaflets, the arrangement of public talks and the full use of the local media and newsagents. By adopting this sort of policy the Conservative Party would be helping to subdue the myth of the immigration menace, rather than whipping it up for electoral gain. The party should also be encouraged to be coupled with increased emphasis on the relief of deprived inner areas within our cities, by a reallocation of government expenditure and the subsidisation of small businesses. The party should take a strong line on the issue. I hope and trust that the 20,000 strong FCS has the courage

Sir, As head nurse of a renal unit in Brussels, I have for some time now been following with interest the various articles and letters printed by *The Times* concerning the situation of kidney patients in Great Britain. I should like, however, to take issue with some of the points put forward by Mr Holgate in his letter (March 11).

Whereas I agree with the need to develop, as it were, "banks" of potential donors, I would first and foremost stress that it is the situation of kidney patients as it stands at the moment which is the problem. There are insufficient organs available for transplant and until this problem of tissues compatibility has been solved, the only alternative to death is the machine and those who require a machine must be provided with one. It is appalling to think that there are everywhere without exception has a right to a machine in Belgium, in a country such as Great Britain, whose NHS has been a source of inspiration and an object of envy of so many countries, there are not enough machines available, with the result that the number of deaths due to kidney failure is higher than in the majority of neighbouring European countries. In Belgium, there are almost twice as many dialysis patients per million head of population as in the United Kingdom.

When life expectancy is concerned, I would point out that with the most recent techniques and equipment, the situation is just as promising for dialysis patients as for transplant patients.

As regards the quality of life for dialysis patients, it is now possible to reduce much of the discomfort and "time lost" through dialysis by using new techniques such as

Sir, I have the honour to serve on the International Affairs Commit-

tee of the Church of England, and also to be an Anglican member of the General Assembly of the British Council of Churches and of its Division of International Affairs. Mr. Newman has said that he could never believe that the Church of England remains "the Conservative Party at prayer" today. Nor could he imagine the Church keeper rightly says (Article 16, April 10, 1933) that the Church has been in politics—whether to sustain the established secular power, as in the late Roman Empire after Constantine or as in the 35 Ardices, or to struggle against it, as in the 19th century, when territorial predominance, as throughout the dreary Investiture and related controversies in the Middle Ages. John Keble's Assize Sermon on National Apostasy, 1833, Newman reads as the start of the Oxford Movement, was sparked off by the Church Temporalities (Ireland) Act 1833. There are endless other examples.

What we should all avoid is trying to make Newman read as his own party political viewpoint. Thus Newman and Keble were wrong when they saw "Liberalism" as a godless political Anti-Christ, and Christian Socialists were equally wrong when they condemn business, commerce and profit out of hand as inherently evil, much as the Usury Laws did centuries before. As a Christian by faith and a conservative by political conviction, I think that these one should always be concerned about bad housing conditions, hunger, poverty or racism. But Christian people can and do disagree where there should be rent controls, anti-trust laws, buying and selling agricultural produce, means tested benefits or strict immigration controls. As one of the greatest Anglicans of a conservative outlook, Richard Hooker, might have put it in the 16th century, we are concerned on which honourable men and women can honourably hold separate opinions.

A Social Gospel is always important; but there is a greater truth still. It is that Christ is risen, and that therefore our faith is vain. Eric Hoffer quotes the Fathers of Nicaea. I believe, as he does, that those same men were guided by God to define the Catholic Faith, as held "always, everywhere and by everyone." Those are the truths which unite us—and how puffing our political differences seem compared with them.

Yours faithfully,  
**MICHAEL LATHAM,**  
House of Commons.  
April 10.

*From the Reverend D. L. Stokes*  
Sir, The Rt Hon Eric Heffer's treatment of Christianity and Socialist thinking raises as many fallacious as well as valid issues. To answer them all would require a lengthy

Sir I am sure that Professor Radford (April 7) and I both agree on the

to establish the best possible estimates of the harm that may be caused by radiation. These questions are fully and carefully reviewed in the light of the available evidence by groups of scientists meeting in the International Commission on Atomic Radiation Protection and its study groups, and were examined in detail by the 20 nation United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in its recent report. In this country they are being reviewed by the National Radiological Protection Board.

They will, I am sure, be studied in this way also by the BEIR Committee under Dr Radford's chairmanship in its forthcoming report, which I think all of these concerned parties will find of great public interest. I believe that full review by such bodies is the proper way for matters such as those raised by Professor Radford to be comprehensively evaluated.

Yours faithfully,  
E. ERIC POCHIN  
The Athenaeum,  
Pall Mall, SW1.

**From Dr I. M. Blair**  
Sir, I write in reply to Professor Dutton's letter (April 3) on the topic of the hazard of nuclear waste. He claims that this presents a hazard with "a completely new dimension of hazard". His claim is not in accord with the facts, on two counts.

First, the quantity of waste produced from our present or any conceivable nuclear programme is trivially small, in terms of lethal doses per annum, in comparison with that produced by many other well-established industries. Second, the effective "half-life" of many of the industrial wastes, particularly elements such as arsenic, mercury or lead, is infinite. Their threat to man's health therefore, to all intents and purposes, remains with us for all time.

There is no doubt that nuclear waste is potentially hazardous, but in any way does it present a threat which is new or unique for an industrial society. Let us by all means continue to be concerned about nuclear waste, but let us not lose our sense of perspective. Yours faithfully,  
**IAN BLAIR**  
Nuclear Environment Branch  
Environmental and Medical Sciences Division  
Atomic Energy Research Establishment,  
Harwell,  
Oxfordshire.

Sir, Your correspondent Mr Barry

The "law of salvage" may well have been "not unsatisfactory" for all shipping in the past and, even

"... Jesus himself was regarded both as a heretic and subversive who

spent his life fighting the establishment, never coming to terms with it." First, to charge someone of heresy implies the existence of an accepted orthodoxy. Monolithic thought was not a characteristic of First Century Judaism. If Jesus seemed heretical to some, he appeared as a dynamic but acceptable contrast to other—and more static—figures. John Ball and his acceptance extended to the élite within his society.

Secondly, when will folk like Mr Heffer cease using the emotive words "subversive" and "establishment" for an historical incident where, perhaps, Jesus was not clear thinking? The Gospels do suggest that Pilate saw this rabbi as a social malcontent, but they continue to show that the Roman governor was extremely hesitant in executing the man. To be hesitant was not a Roman trait (the rabbi was not a Roman traitor, either). In the end, the turn of events was consistently ambiguous towards his social order. While he attacked false piety I cannot discover where he attacked the "establishment". As for "never coming to terms with it" may I recommend Mr Heffer continue to study his Church Fathers. If the Crucified Christ means anything to his early followers it was the making relative of all societies by a God who is victorious in the midst of defeat.

Every age makes the Nazarene in its own image. In the 1920s Jesus was the prototype business executive; for Mrs Thatcher he may be the wonder of Tory thought; and for Mr Heffer he is the revolutionary par excellence. When will such people avail themselves of modern scholarship and discover that when invoking Jesus they are dealing with a highly elusive figure who is a class threatening not merely the social order but the very soul of man? Until then do so, folk like Mr Heffer will continue to make such well-sounding but fatuous assumptions.

Yours respectfully,  
D. L. STOKES,  
73 Carlton Road,  
Romford,  
Essex.  
April 10.

From Mr S. E. Dillon  
Sir. To contradict both Mr Eric  
Heffer and St Ambrose seems the  
height of presumption, as I have  
neither been canonized nor elected  
as an MP, but for these gentlemen  
to recommend the feeding habits  
of birds as examples to either  
Christians or Socialists is odd, to  
say the least. From my own  
observations I can inform them that  
the bigger the bird the more likely  
he is to eat, in the event of any  
dispute.

Yours faithfully,  
S. E. DILLON,  
1(B) Frederick Road,  
Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands.

cargo, vehicles, etc., when no burdens are placed upon the en-

environment and the community at large by the disaster. Normal commercial, statistical and economic calculations can be left to fix the "deadweight loads (log of the cost of having tugs "lying in wait") upon the parties directly involved (in fact even car breakdown recovery could be fairly paid for in some such way if well established).

Such a "deadweight" equality breaks down completely, however, when the ships and cargoes are such that disaster brings far greater consequential burdens upon whole communities and the environment. We really cannot afford to leave the "deadweight of salvage" as it is for such traffic.

Yours faithfully,  
E. LOEWEY,  
64 Kewferry Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex.

From the Chairman of the Indepen-

**Senior Broadcasting Authority**  
Sir, Mr Nicholas Faith rightly says (April 11) that "radio is this country's fastest growing medium of communication". In his interesting article, however, he greatly underestimates the attention paid to Independent Local Radio (ILR) by the IBA.

We consider that the development of ILR is now a priority for independent broadcasting and not one which takes second place to television. We only await a green light from the Government so that we can proceed with ILR at once. The Government's attitude is now possible without making any extra call on public funds; and the existing legislation enables immediate decisions to be taken.

The first 19 companies have shown that it is now possible to provide a local public service on a self-financing basis. They now attract a substantial listenership and offer broadcasting in a modern style that is proving useful, informative and entertaining.

We believe the Annan Committee target of providing local radio for over 90 per cent of the United Kingdom population can and should be achieved through ILR. The IBA would thus contribute to the provision of a radio service suited to the needs of the 1980s and 1990s.

Yours faithfully,  
**BRIDGET PLOWDEN, Chairman,**  
Independent Broadcasting Authority,  
70 Brompton Road, SW2.

*From The Bishop of Coventry*

Sir. Since we are constantly reminded of the alleged failings both of "the media" and of modern youth, I hope the performances of young people in the Young Musician of the Year competition and the splendid way in which it was sponsored and presented by the EBC have not gone unnoticed.

Yours faithfully,  
† JOHN COVENTRY,  
The Bishop's House,  
Davenport Road,  
Coventry.



# SAVILLS



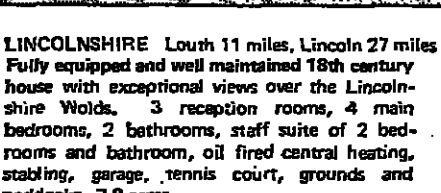
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Fully equipped and well maintained 18th century house with exceptional views over the Lincolnshire Wolds. 3 reception rooms, 4 main bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, staff suite of 2 bedrooms and bathroom, oil fired central heating, stable, garage, tennis court, grounds and paddocks. 7.5 acres.  
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West End 9 miles, Heathrow 10 miles  
Superb bungalow in secluded position on exclusive estate with direct access to Golf course. 3 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms (including master suite), central heating, 3 car garage. Delightful gardens with fine trees and ornamental pond. 1/2 acre.  
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HAWES & CO., Tel: 01-942 2280



**WEST SURREY Between Guildford and Woking**  
Fully modernised and adjoining farmland. 5 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, (3 en suite), secondary accommodation, oil central heating, indoor heated swimming pool, garaging for 6, 3 cottages, gardens and grounds. About 3 1/2 acres.  
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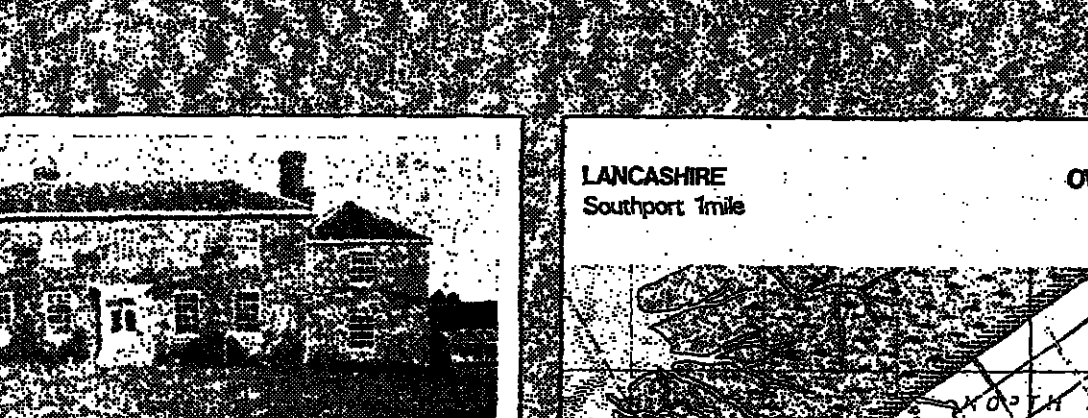
**OXFORDSHIRE M40 3 miles, Oxford 7 miles**  
Delightful stone Manor House with far reaching southern views. 4 reception rooms, 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, secondary accommodation, central heating, stabling and dairy. Garden, 5 paddocks. About 14 acres.  
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Dartmoor National Park-Newton Abbot 12 miles  
Modernised period house with superb unspoilt views over the Dart valley. 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, excellent outbuildings, paddocks. 5 1/2 acres. Further 70 acres available.  
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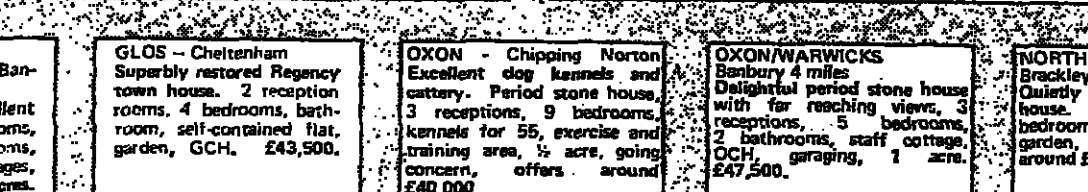
**By direction of Executors WEST SUSSEX - The Bowhill Estate, West Stoke 507 ACRES**  
First class residential and agricultural estate of 507 acres  
Bowhill: Fine country house with 4 reception rooms, 6 principal bedrooms and 6 bathrooms, staff/nursery wing. 2nd floor flat. Oil fired central heating. Garage block with flat. Swimming pool, hard tennis court, squash court. 2 excellent cottages. Gardens, field and woodland. About 47 acres. 3 further cottages also available.  
Downs Farm: Outstanding arable and stock farm with farmhouse 2 cottages and range of buildings. 335 acres. Also a block of amenity woodland - 105 acres.  
SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644



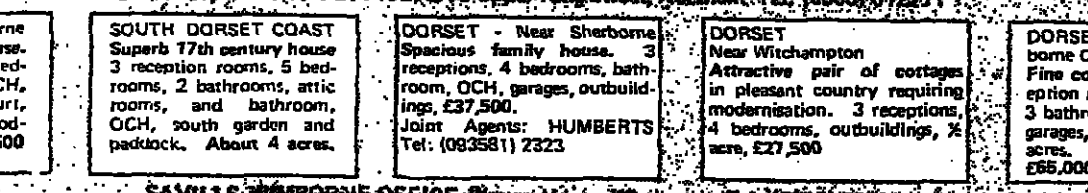
**KENT Tonbridge 4 miles, Sevenoaks 7 miles, M20/25 interchange 5 miles**  
Elegant well appointed listed Manor House with extensive rural views in an area of great landscape value. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, staff flat, oil fired central heating, outbuildings including coach house, stables and garaging, hard stone court, garden, 10 acre paddock. About 12 acres.  
SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644



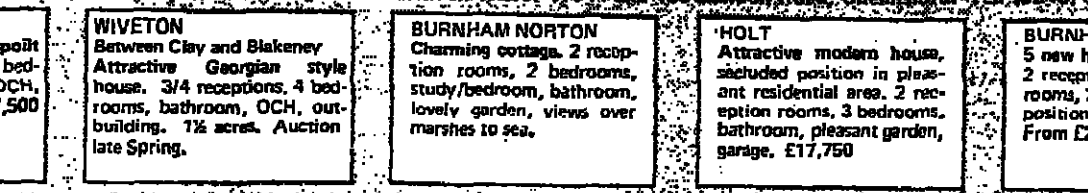
**By Direction of The Lady Ashdown CBE SUSSEX - Ashdown Forest**  
Exceptionally well-appointed country house of character with superlative gardens in a totally secluded position surrounded by large estates. 3 reception rooms, sun lounge, 4 principal bedrooms and 4 bathrooms (3 en suite), oil central heating, self contained staff/nursery flat, cottage, heated swimming pool, outstanding show gardens with croquet lawn. 2 1/2 acres.  
SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644



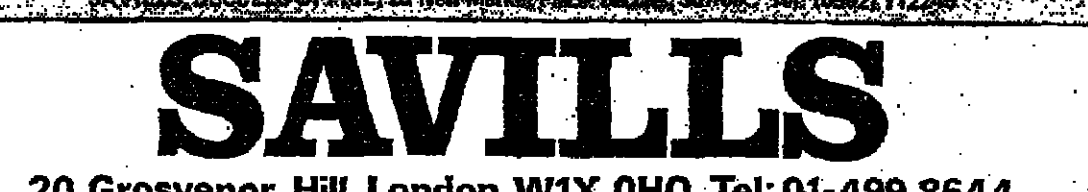
**WARWICKS Sutton-under-Brailes, Banbury 12 miles**  
Stone house with excellent views. 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower, O.C.H., garages, garden, paddock. 1 1/2 acres.  
SAVILLS, BANBURY OFFICE, 21 High Street, Banbury. Tel: (0295) 512211



**NORTH NORFOLK**  
Substantial modern family house. 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 5th bedroom, bathroom, O.C.H., garage, large garden. 5 1/2 acres. £28,950  
SAVILLS, NORWICH OFFICE, 8/9 Upper King Street, Norwich. Tel: (0693) 612211



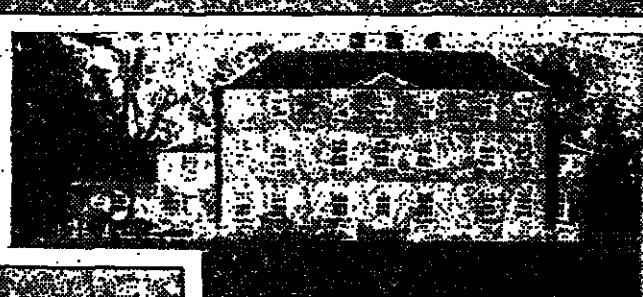
**DORSET - Near Wimborne**  
Charming modern house. 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, O.C.H., garage, tennis court, gardens, paddock, woodland. 10 acres £67,500  
SAVILLS, WIMBORNE OFFICE, West House, Wimborne. Tel: (0202) 887331



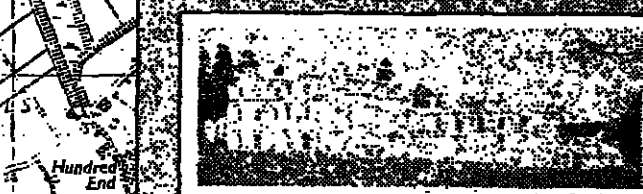
**ESSEX - Hatfield Peverel**  
Large Georgian House in parkland setting suitable for institutional use. 5 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, O.C.H., about 4 1/2 acres. £58,000  
SAVILLS, ESSEX, 6 West Street, Colchester. Tel: (0206) 79611 and 130 Colchester Road, Ipswich. Tel: (02461) 89311



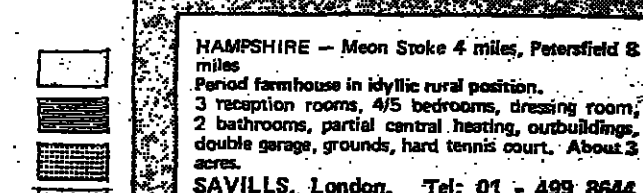
**EAST SUSSEX 154 ACRES**  
Uckfield 5 miles, London 47 miles  
Outstanding residential estate with a classic and well maintained listed Jacobean Manor house. 4 reception rooms, 5 principal and 4 secondary bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, oil fired central heating, garaging, heated swimming pool, beautiful gardens and grounds, farm buildings. Manager's house, pair of east cottages, staff cottage.  
SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644



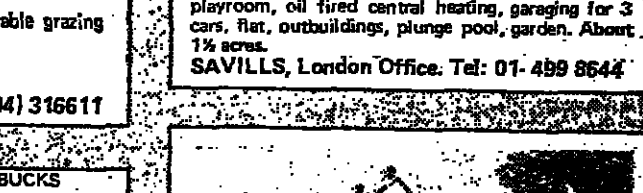
**NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND 33 ACRES**  
Wooler 5 miles, Edinburgh 65 miles, Newcastle 47 miles  
Small estate with fine house in parkland setting. 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, central heating. 3 loose boxes, garaging. 2 cottages, walled garden and 3 paddocks. Right to fish on 1 1/2 miles of the River Till.  
SAVILLS, London. Tel: 01-499 8644  
JOHN SALE & PTRS. Tel: (066282) 611



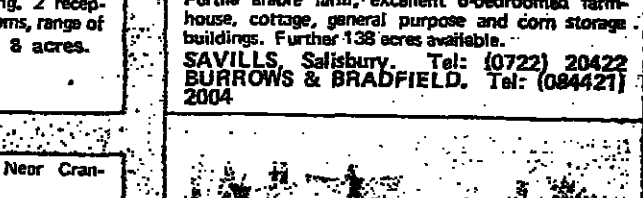
**GLoucestershire Monmouth-in-the-Marsh 3 miles**  
Northwick Park. Exceptionally modernised country house set in timbered parkland suitable for non-residential use. 5 reception rooms, Conference Hall, 10 main & 11 secondary bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, O.C.H. About 12 1/2 acres  
SAVILLS, Banbury. Tel: (0295) 3535



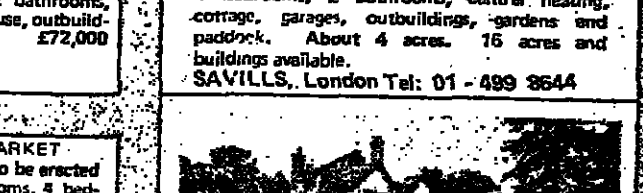
**HAMPSHIRE - Meon Stoke 4 miles, Petersfield 8 miles**  
Period farmhouse in idyllic rural position. 3 reception rooms, 4/5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, partial central heating, outbuildings, double garage, grounds, hard tennis court. About 3 acres.  
SAVILLS, London. Tel: 01-499 8644



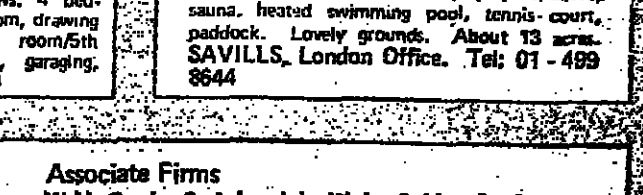
**OXFORDSHIRE - Shipplake**  
Henley 3 miles, Reading 5 miles, Paddington 35 mins  
Fine family house with included garden in the Thames Valley. Drawing room, dining room, sun room, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, playroom, oil fired central heating, garaging for 3 cars, flat, outbuildings, plunge pool, garden. About 1 1/2 acres.  
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**OXFORDSHIRE 155 ACRES**  
Easy access to Heathrow  
Fertile arable farm, excellent 6-bedroomed farmhouse, cottage, general purpose and corn storage buildings. Further 138 acres available.  
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BURROWS & BRADFIELD. Tel: (084421) 2004



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Attractive period house overlooking farmland. 2 reception rooms, study/dressing room, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, cottage, garage, outbuildings, gardens and paddocks. About 4 acres. 16 acres and buildings available.  
SAVILLS, London Tel: 01-499 8644



**SURREY Woking 2 miles, Heathrow 16 miles**  
Superbly modernised house in secluded rural setting. 5 reception rooms, playroom, billiards room, 6 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms, garaging, 2 cottages, squash court, sauna, heated swimming pool, tennis court, paddock. Lovely grounds. About 13 acres.  
SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644

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**Agricultural Land**

Grade 1	
2	
4	
5	
Non Agricultural	

**OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT INCLUDING FORESHORE AND SPORTING RIGHTS ON THE RIBBLE ESTUARY**

766 acres let farmland, mostly grade 1, to produce £30,765.  
91 acres in hand including 67 acres of prime agricultural land.  
5,500 acres approx freehold foreshore and tidal marsh with valuable grazing and sporting rights.  
Possible CTT concessions available to certain purchasers.  
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SAVILLS







**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*"Afore ye go"*

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]



## American broker in bid approach for Leslie & Godwin

A new, if widely expected, feature of monetary policy is the introduction of rolling targets. At the first opportunity to make a new 12-month target every six months. This will ease the problem of monetary control in the final months of any period and give the Government the opportunity to make more frequent adaptations to monetary policy in the light of changing circumstances.

Caroline Atkinson writes: In a thin and nervous market, the pound rose to the pound rate at first in reaction to the increase in M.R. It pounced \$1.88 against the dollar from 1.8755 before the news. Sterling then closed at \$1.8775, with the effective rate index up 0.1 on the day to 62.2.

There was no market reaction to the poor trade forecast accompanying the Budget speech. In general, trading was light yesterday as the market awaited the publication of the Government on the United States economy as well as for Mr Healey's Budget.

By Richard Allen

Leslie & Godwin, one of Britain's major insurance companies, is considering a takeover over bid from Frank B. Hall, an American broking group.

Dealings in L&G shares were suspended at the company's request yesterday as it held final negotiations on a cash offer expected to be "a significant premium" to the previous night's closing price of 93p.

L&G is capitalized at just over £18m and stock market sources estimate it has a region of £25m, valuing each share at more than 125p.

Hall is one of the biggest brokerage firms in the United States, specializing in casualty and life insurance. It is a major purchaser of £100m and £250m policies.

After tax profits of \$18m (about £3.5m)

L&G is a Lloyd's broker and underwriting agent and the bid, if accepted by the Committee of Lloyd's, would create an unprecedented link between the market and an overseas broker.

The group announced yesterday that 1977 results were only fractionally up at £4.1m—a figure which compares badly with estimates of £4.5m at least £5m. In 1976 the group made provisions of almost £1m following the collapse of the Prichard & Baird brokerage firm, its main United States contact.

It is understood that the approach from Hall is a direct result of L&G's recent drive to establish a wider American contacts network.

Financial Editor

## **‘Lack of incentives’ for management leave industry leaders disappointed with Budget**

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## CBI aims to give more scope to retailers

**By Malcolm Brown**

John Methven, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, has called a private meeting of 29 of its newest members tomorrow to try to establish more clearly the retail companies can play in CBI activities.

Companies like W. H. Smith, Unigate, Sainsbury, Marks & Spencer, Currys and Mothercare will be represented.

The meeting is expected to identify business problems closely involving retailers and see how the retail companies can be brought more into the mainstream of CBI activities. At present, they are hardly represented in the committee structure.

Although it is early days yet, one question which might eventually have to be considered is whether the retail and distribution companies in CBI membership should be given their own special status, like the small companies, or whether they should simply act as ordinary members rather than a special grouping.

The CBI has been making a concerted effort to recruit retail members over the past six months. The drive, which started in the late autumn of 1977, marked the end of self-defending ordinance which the confederation had respected over a number of years after discussions with the Retail Consortium, the leading representative body for the retail and distribution trades.

## Partner for GEC in S Africa

Barlow Rand, the South African Industrial group, is paying Rand 27.5m (£16.9m) for a half share in GEC's major South African subsidiaries.

GEC said in a statement that it had decided that development of its business in South Africa required the advice, assistance and balancing influence of an indigenous group.

Barlow Rand, which last year had a turnover of R1,245m and profits after tax of R108m, was the logical partner.

The combined net assets of GEC's South African interests were about R525m and last year's profits after tax were expected to exceed R5m.

Barlow Rand will be entitled to appoint the chairman and a majority of directors of the company, which will continue to be a public company, but with a considerable degree of independence and will retain GEC trade names.

Of the purchase price around R20m will be raised through a rights issue of 5 per cent preference shares. The balance will be paid from the company's own resources.

From Michael Horusby  
Brussels, April 11

Japan and South Africa have signed agreements with the European Community to train voluntarily their steel exports to the Community for the rest of this year. Similar agreements are expected to be signed with Spain, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria later this year, according to European Commission sources.

Under their agreement, the Japanese have promised not to deliver steel to the EEC at prices more than 4 per cent (in the case of special steel) and 8 per cent (in the case of ordinary steel) below the prices prevailing on the Community's domestic market.

Japan has also agreed to keep its steel exports within an overall ceiling of 1.2 million tonnes.

The South Africans have been granted the same price terms as the Japanese, and will observe a ceiling of 332,000 tonnes, of which 32,000 tonnes can be semi-finished goods.

The Spanish Government offered the same price margins

## Community steel import curbs agreed

From Michael Horasby  
Brussels, April 11

Japan and South Africa have signed agreements with the European Community to export train voluntarily their steel exports to the Community for the rest of this year. Similar agreements are expected to be signed with Spain, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria to enable them to export to the European Commission southern.

Under their agreement, the Japanese have promised not to deliver steel to the EEC at prices more than 4 per cent (in the case of special steel) and 10 per cent (in the case of ordinary steel) below the prices prevailing on the Community's domestic market.

Japan has also agreed to keep its steel exports within an overall ceiling of 1.2 million tonnes.

The South Africans have been granted the same price terms as the Japanese, and will observe a ceiling of 332,000 tonnes, of which 32,000 tonnes can be semi-finished goods.

The Spanish Government offered the same price margins.

## Chancellor's tax avoidance warning as the loopholes plugged retrospectively

to crack down on this type of scheme.

Those marketing this type of scheme had discovered that if the recipient of the premium on a lease was a land dealer, his liability for tax as income under case 1 of Schedule D could be included under case 2.

Mr Healey has, in effect, turned the clock back 28 years when the 1950 Finance Bill introduced by Sir Stafford Cripps contained retrospective provisions for surtax on restrictive covenants.

Then, as now, retrospective action was brought to its constitutional probity and threatened to drive the artificial avoidance industry underground into an entirely non-legal evasion framework.

Describing the latest measures as "one of the principles of natural justice" Mr Ronald Plummer a former Slater, Walker tax manager, who now runs the Rossminster group specialising in personal tax, said that it should be difficult to draw the line between artificial avoidance measures and fairly innocent, if sophisticated, schemes.

He said yesterday that he believed that only a number of individuals and companies had used the commodities straddle avoidance loophole and understood that new schemes, introduced since December 1976 would one day be caught in the retrospective net.

Mr Roy Tucker, who heads an accountancy firm and which did much to market commodity futures schemes said that Mr.

## Easing of credit card repayments

By Bryan Appleyard  
Britain's 1.6 million credit card holders are to be freed from the high level of minimum monthly repayments requirements introduced by the Chancellor in December, 1973.

The monthly repayments of 15 per cent of the sum borrowed or £6, whichever is greater, and they were imposed to bring credit card use within the ambit of credit control generally.

Before their imposition the minimum repayments had been £2 or 5 per cent, and yesterday a spokesman for Access said the requirements would be "certainly reduced by the companies, though it was not yet clear by how much."

In June last year retailers' store accounts were exempted from the purchase controls provided they conformed to the same restrictions as credit cards, so now these too are freed from the requirements.

The relaxation is in line with the gradual easing of hire purchase controls since 1973.

The Access spokesman said they were delighted at the move, which would allow them to compete more fully with other forms of consumer credit.

He could not say what the effect on total credit card turnover would be, but he did comment that it would help the industry to achieve the target of accounting for 24 to 3 per cent of all money transactions within 10 to 15 years.

At least 1,000 sum of official since the 1971 increase. In Government is of bonds on credit card. The disclosed yesterday borrowing is part debt rescheduled at smoothing out payment "they will be spreading the repayment into of that decade.

The £350m in the first that it has made on the market" in more than £200m in the life of seven years payable in 1985. £150m will have 15 years and by 1995. The issue was underwritten by a national syndicate headed by Morgan Co, First Boston and Salomon B.

The bond offer to be made as a public issue to be marketed or suggested in London, the seven would probably rate of around 84 to 84 per cent.

The two new credit rating agencies that the issue was

## Further loan repayment of \$4,000m this year

**By Mervyn Westlake**

Britain is the first country to repay at least \$4,000m of the huge sum of official debts amassed since the 1973-74 oil price increase. In addition, the Government is to issue \$350m of bonds on the New York capital market, the Chancellor disclosed yesterday. This fresh borrowing is part of the official debt rescheduling programme at smoothing out the repayment schedule and avoiding crises occur in the early 1980s, and spreading the burden of debt repayment into the later years of that decade.

The \$350m issue, which is the first that the Government has made on the "Yankee bond market" in modern times, will be made in increments. Some \$200m of the loan will have a life of seven years, and be repayable in 1985; and a further \$150m will have a maturity of 1995 and be repayable in 1997. The issue will be underwritten by an international syndicate of banks, headed by Morgan Stanley and Co, First Boston Corporation and Salomon Brothers.

The bond offer is expected to be made over the next month, and the proceeds despatched to be worked out. But it was suggested in London yesterday that the seven-years bonds would probably carry an interest rate of 8½ per cent, while the 15-year bonds are likely to be offered at around 8½ to 8¾ per cent.

The two main American credit rating agencies have said that the issue would be given a "Baa" rating, the highest credit rating that can be awarded.

This proposed bond offer will bring total new borrowings made by Britain since last October to almost \$1,000m. Since that time the \$600m in new loans have already been taken from the European Investment

Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community.

But such fresh borrowing is easily outweighed by repayments made, or proposed, for 1978.

At the beginning of this year Britain's total official debt amounted to over \$25,000m, of which 80 per cent falls due for repayment by 1984.

Of the \$4,000m that it is now proposed to repay this year, only \$1,000m of this is being paid on the due date, the rest is being given back ahead of time.

Mr Healey said yesterday that it would not be sensible to aim to pay off the whole of the outstanding debt from current account surpluses in the next six or seven years. That would add to the problem of current account imbalances in the world, and would not be wise to give the need to expand the economy.

In other words, the Chancellor wants to run the economy at a higher level of demand than would be consistent with earning a sufficiently high surplus to meet all debts as they fall due on the present repayment schedule.

In January Mr Healey announced that \$1,000m of Britain's debt to the International Monetary Fund would be repaid ahead of time, and some \$870m of this repayment would be used for the purpose of wiping out the borrowing made in May 1976 when the first IMF credit tranche was drawn.

Yesterday, the Chancellor said a further \$1,000m would be given back to the IMF in 1978. In addition, a further \$1,000m of private market debt accumulated by nationalized industries and other public-sector bodies, was being paid back ahead of time. Debts of this character, amounting to \$1,000m, will be paid on schedule in 1978.

# The markets moved

The Times index : 198.96 + 1.13  
The FT index : 470.4 + 7.7

## THE POUND

			Bank buys	Bank sells	
7p to 80p	Huntleigh Group	8p to 94p			
5p to 230p	Hunting Gibson	7p to 212p	Australia s	1.69	1.63
11p to 147p	Johnson Grp	7p to 95p	Austria Sch	28.25	28.25
12p to 310p	Kelaset	8p to 153p	Belgium Fr	61.59	68.80
7p to 110p	Malayan Tin	5p to 285p	Canada \$	2.20	2.13
5p to 120p	Samuel, H.	7p to 287p	Denmark Kr	10.80	10.30
10p to 255p	Selection Tst	10p to 402p	Finland Mk	8.07	7.72
6p to 303p	Shell Trans	5p to 523p	France Fr	8.80	8.80
			Germany Dm	3.33	3.71
			Greece Dr	69.00	65.00
			Hongkong \$	9.00	8.55
			Italy Lr	1680.00	1585.00
			Japan Ya	480.00	490.00
			Netherlands Gld	4.20	3.97
			Norway Kr	16.27	9.82
			Portugal Esc	77.50	72.50
			S Africa Rd	2.03	1.89
			Spain Ptas	153.50	147.75
			Sweden Kr	3.88	3.48
			Switzerland Fr	9.64	8.42
			US \$	1.93	1.87
			Yugoslavia Dnr	36.00	34.00

ahead in late trading.  
curities had a quiet

Gold gained \$1 an ounce to  
\$179.875.

SDR-5 was 1.24044 on Monday  
while SDR-6 was 0.851603.

Commodities: Renter's index was  
at 1442.5 (previous 1436.2).

Reports pages 26 and 27

Rates for small denomination bank  
notes valid as small currency in  
Hutchings Bank International Ltd  
London rates and travellers' cheques  
and other foreign currency  
business.

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27 Society

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Preliminary Announcements:  
24 Jardine Matheson 23

October to almost \$1,000m. back ahead of time. Debts of a similar type, amounting to \$1,000m, will be paid on from the European Investment schedule in 1978.

lending. Specifically they are asked to give priority to finance for investment and export expansion.

Capital repayments of the government and other public sector foreign currency borrowing (a)

	\$000 millions (to nearest 0.1)										
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987 onwards	Total
HMG \$2,500m borrowing	—	—	—	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	—	—	—	2.5
HMG \$1,500m borrowing	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	—	—	—	1.5
International Monetary Fund:											
Oil facility	—	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	—	—	—	—	1.2
Credit tranches (b)	—	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	2.8
Long-term government borrowing	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	3.9
Other public sector borrowing:											
1969 exchange cover scheme	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2
1973 exchange cover scheme	1.0	1.5	1.6	2.6	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	9.8
Uncovered borrowing	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.5
HMG foreign currency bonds	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.5	—	—	—	0.8
Total	1.6	2.4	3.4	5.3	3.5	2.5	2.5	0.4	0.4	3.2	25.2

(a) Individual items may not necessarily agree with totals because of rounding.

(b) In addition, drawings on the IMF gold tranche of \$900m fall due for repayment between 1979 and 1981. Repayment of these and of the credit tranches drawings will eventually result in restoration of the United Kingdom's gold tranche position which will count as an offsetting increase in reserves.

# REFUGE


ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

## RESULTS FOR 1977

In the Life Assurance Branches the surplus for the year allocated to policyholders was £17,741,000 (1976 £15,382,000).

In the Fire and Accident Branch there was a loss on underwriting of £218,000 (1976 £120,000 loss), and investment income amounted to £507,000 (1976 £384,000).

At 31st December 1977 the total assets in the Balance Sheets amounted to £370 millions (1976 £352 millions).



# REFUGE

ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Chief Office (Registered Office), Oxford Street, Manchester, M60 7HA.  
Registered Number 1384C-England.



# Shipowners and union leaders disagree on seeking government help for companies

By Michael Bailey, Shipping Correspondent

A rift between shipowners and unions is developing over the question of government aid.

The unions want the industry to accept help for companies hit by the prolonged freight market slump and stop seamen being made redundant. But the traditionally independent shipowners fear that acceptance of aid would be the first step towards greater government interference and even "creeping nationalization".

Informal talks have been taking place between the Department of Trade and the General Council of British Shipping, but both parties denied yesterday that an aid scheme was imminent.

"No request for assistance has been made, and no assistance has been offered," a department spokesman said. "No formal talks are taking place, though we are in regular contact informally."

"As a background to the situation the department has discussed internally ways of giving help, including deferring loans under the Industry Act, but any assistance of that kind would be quite some time in the future." There will be no announcement this month.

With redundancy of several hundred ships' officers in prospect, owners are being pressed to accept help.

Mr John Newman, assistant general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association said: "Some of the shipping industry's backwoodsmen would rather go to their graves than accept government aid."

"They should not be allowed to drag British seafarers with them. If they are not prepared to operate their ships with whatever subsidies can be obtained from the Government, control of their ships should be taken over by the Government."

He complained of inadequate redundancy terms being offered—£2,800 for a ship's master on one line compared with £17,500 offered to redundant steel workers.

The GCBS, while confirming that help had not been requested, declined to say why. The reason was well put yesterday by the shipping investment advisers Laurence Prust in their latest newsletter urging the industry to "oppose soft options and fight its own battles".

Taken as a whole British shipping is "in a strong position to withstand the present slump, subject to a curtailment in unproductive building".

Some companies must at some stage talk to their creditors about possible rescheduling of loans and amortization interest, and the GCBS cannot stop individual owners approaching the Government. But the industry should not support such actions, and at an appropriate moment the GCBS should publicly disassociate itself, Laurence Prust says.

## German banker sets 3 goals for Bonn summit

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, April 11

The world economic summit, the Bonn summit on July 16, could serve to anchor American policy to strengthen the dollar in the framework of a joint effort by the western industrial countries to stabilize the world monetary system, according to Dr Wilfried Guth, one of the most influential West German commercial bankers.



Dr Wilfried Guth: anchor for American dollar policy.

But Dr Guth, who is joint managing board spokesman of the Deutsche Bank and a close confidant of Chancellor Schmidt, told a press conference in Frankfurt that, as before, the future of the dollar could be determined primarily in Washington.

He believed the Americans wanted to strengthen their currency, and to achieve this the introduction of a convincing energy programme remained essential from a material and psychological point of view.

However, Dr Guth maintained that the summit could set three important goals. The participants should underline their opposition to protectionist measures and the introduction of capital exchange controls; they should neither give up nor ease the policy of combating inflation, and commit themselves to removing restrictions on economic growth and promote private investment.

He said expectations should not be built up too greatly in advance of the Bonn meeting, and the countries taking part should not again be seduced into declaring growth targets into declaring growth targets that could later become the subject for recrimination.

Dr Guth was critical of last weekend's European Community summit in Copenhagen,

at which leaders agreed to achieve an annual growth rate of 4.5 per cent by mid-1979.

But he declared his support for efforts to bring about closer monetary cooperation in Europe. A first step should be the expansion of the joint currency float from its present truncated condition.

At the same time there should be no weakening of the principles of stability that underpin the "snake".

Dr Guth was rather less hopeful on the prospects for the West German economy. He argued that the recent 5 per cent wage settlement in the German metal industry failed to take account of the effects of the Deutsche mark revaluation on the economy and would do nothing to support the business cycle or increase employment.

While Bonn's deficit spending policy had borne fruit in strengthening the construction industry and appeared to be stimulating investment, he argued that it would not produce satisfactory or self-sustaining growth.

## Foreign cars' share of UK market falls

By Edward Townsend

Imported cars captured less than 41 per cent of the United Kingdom market last month—their lowest foreign penetration since February, 1977. British Leyland Cars reassessed itself to win a more respectable 31 per cent of sales.

High stocks of British cars and the usual pre-Budget buying spree provided an extra stimulus and the month's total car sales were 179,233, a rise of 45 per cent on March last year, and the highest monthly total recorded.

Sales for the first three months, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, were 468,915, a 28 per cent increase on a year earlier and second only to the first quarter figure of 483,477 in the record sales year of 1973.

Japanese car sales in March were 16,874 for a market share of 9.4 per cent, although for the first quarter the Japanese share stands at 11.6 per cent. This implies that Japanese car sales must be reduced significantly in coming months if

they are not to exceed the 10 per cent market share which the Government considers the top limit for the whole of 1978.

BL Cars' share was achieved with sales last month of 55,485 while Ford's sales of 41,395, including imports of almost 14,000, meant that the American-owned company only 23 per cent of the market. Chrysler and Vauxhall each won just under 8.5 per cent.

Ford was the leading importer with 7.8 per cent of sales, followed by Datsun with 5.2 per cent. Fiat with 4 per cent, Renault with 3.4 per cent and VW/Audi with 3 per cent.

Leyland's first quarter market share of 26.1 per cent was marginally behind Ford's and both companies are now in fierce competition for the overall 1978 market leadership.

United Kingdom car production in the first two months of the year at 27,420 per week was slightly ahead of output a year earlier. Total recorded production in January and February was 219,362 against 215,870 a year earlier.

## Unions may press for cooperatives at Spillers

By R. W. Shakespeare

Union officials and shop stewards mounting a campaign to resist the planned closure of Spillers bread bakeries in the North-west are likely to press for workers' cooperatives to try to save some jobs.

The announcement at the weekend that Spillers will close 23 bakeries with the possible loss of some 8,000 jobs, is a serious blow to the North-west region, where unemployment is already well above the national average.

Four of Spillers' big bakeries there will be among those to close. Preston, Blackpool, Manchester and Liverpool, and more than 1,000 jobs are threatened.

At meetings in Manchester and Liverpool during the past few days, shop stewards and union officials agreed on a plan of action to resist the closures.

Mr Bill Harrison, Manchester secretary of the Bakers' Union, says: "Because Spillers are planning to close 23 bakeries in various parts of the country, this is a national issue and we will have to follow the lead set by the national union."

"However, at our meeting of Manchester area delegates it was decided to press the executive to prevent Spillers' production being transferred to rival bakeries while the battle to prevent the closures is in progress."

The bakeries in the North-west are due to shut by April 22, and Mr Arnold Sprayson, regional organiser of the union, said he would like to see workers' cooperatives set up. Strike action was unlikely. "We are hoping to keep these places open, but to cause disruption which could lead to more closures."

Closures would mean 263 redundancies at Ardwick (Manchester), 464 at Preston, 77 at Blackpool and 520 at Merseyside, where unemployment is already around 12 per cent.

## Coal Board hopes for coke deal with BSC run into difficulties

By Peter Hill

Negotiations between the National Coal Board and the British Steel Corporation over terms for a new agreement covering the corporation's purchases of coke have run into difficulties.

Talks have been taking place over several months between the two state industries against the background of the steel industry's problems and the serious state of the corporation's own finances.

The crisis in steel has had its repercussions on the NCB, which provides a substantial volume of the BSC's coke and coal requirements. The NCB's coke manufacturing subsidiary, National Smokeless Fuels, is operating at well below its normal capacity.

The NCB's hopes for the immediate future are pinned on negotiating a new long-term supply agreement with the BSC.

under which the NCB would provide the corporation with about 200,000 tonnes of coke annually. Coal Board negotiators are hoping that an agreement close to the proposed terms will be agreed within the next two or three weeks.

However, last night the BSC said: "We are still negotiating with the NCB and until we have come to a commercial decision we cannot make any further comment."

It is its last financial year the BSC returned a loss of about £440m, according to the latest estimate made by the Government, and in the current financial year a loss of £320m is in prospect.

It is likely to be 1980-81 at the earliest before the corporation reaches a break-even point, and in view of the heavy losses being incurred and continued bleak outlook for steel demand, negotiations on price terms have

become a major hurdle. Over the past year the corporation's coke output has fallen by about 2.2 million tonnes against its capacity of some four million tonnes.

It has already been forced to close one plant, taking 250,000-300,000 tonnes capacity out of operation, and another 12 plants have run at about 70 per cent of rated capacity.

A battery of coke ovens near Middlesbrough, where the BSC has a 50 per cent share, is being sold to a private company for about £10 million.

Over the past few years BSC has taken between 3 and one million tonnes of coal from NCB plants, but the proposed deal the company wants to negotiate a new contract under which the BSC take an average of 2 tonnes annually.



## Sales surge for Short's commuter airliner

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

Short Brothers have sold 12 of their 30-seater 330 commuter airliners worth nearly £12m since the beginning of the year.

This sudden burst of sales almost doubled the existing total. Orders for the 330 (pictured above) now stand at 26, of which 22 are firm sales and the remaining four options to purchase by existing operators.

Several airlines spread across the United States, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean and the Pacific, have now bought the 330, which is a rugged high-wing airliner powered by two quiet turbo-prop engines.

reports circulating in the world airline industry. Earlier users of the 330 have spoken of its reliability and of the excellent service provided by Short's. The aircraft are mainly used on short journeys lasting between 15 minutes and one and a half hours.

About 400,000 passengers have now flown in 330s in regular airline service during the first three months of the year. The aircraft's flying hours total 100,000.

Short's 330s are also being sold to potential markets for 30-seater airliners. The 330 category is between 300 and 1,000 seats, the world during the next seven to 10 years. Up to 400 of these will be bought by North America.

## Manchester industrial estate planned

A proposal to set up a new industrial estate in the south Manchester area could lead to the creation of some 10,000 jobs. Now under discussion by Manchester City Council and industrial planning authorities in the region, the plan would aim to attract major national and international investment.

It has been made possible because a new road scheme has now been scrapped, and a 70-acre site at Wythenshawe, on the southern outskirts of the city, has become available for alternative use.

Mr Jack Hadwen, Manchester's industrial development officer, believes the site could prove to be one of the most attractive industrial locations in the country since it is within minutes of both the motorway network and Manchester airport.

Although the proposal is still at the early planning stage, there have already been firm inquiries from a number of major companies interested in developing in the area.

Mr Hadwen says: "Of course a lot will depend on the national economic scene, but this development could well set the pace for other sites."

Manchester has already launched a major campaign to revive industrial activity in the city. In a decade the Greater Manchester Area lost almost 100,000 jobs, mostly in manufacturing industry, largely through urban clearance schemes.

## Better climate seen for French industry

Paris, April 11.—The French employers' association, or Patronat, said today in its latest monthly economic analysis that the business climate in France had improved considerably since the parliamentary elections in mid-March when returned the ruling coalition government.

Hesitation and uncertainty prevailing up to the elections had given way to confidence, which was being reflected by an inflow of orders, especially those for consumer goods, the Patronat reported.

The study warned, however, that all French companies had been marked financially by a long period of slow activity, and costs which remained high or had increased.

It pointed out that the investment intentions of many groups, stimulated by the return of confidence, may soon come up against the problems of insufficient financial resources, excessive indebtedness and weak self-financing capability.—AP-Dow Jones.

## Extension of state aid for small firms

By Our Industrial Editor

A two-year-old scheme for encouraging collaboration between small companies by providing state aid towards initial costs of carrying out feasibility studies is to be extended.

Some £100,000 was set aside by the Government in April 1976 whereby groups of small companies could claim up to half the cost of a study into possible collaboration in their operations, with a maximum of £5,000 on any one study report.

It appears that the response to the scheme has been so good that when the scheme ran out on March 31 only £35,000 of the total £100,000 available of the two years duration was taken up.

The Department of Industry, however, has decided to extend the scheme for a further two years, in view of a recent rise in the number of applications for assistance it would extend the operation of the scheme until such time as the full amount of aid available had been fully taken up.

The expectation in Whitehall is that other measures to help small firms will greatly increase interest in collaboration.

There has been much examination of small firms' needs since the study assistance scheme was announced, and yesterday's Budget may give further boost to interest, as well as the British Overseas Trade Board's separate Market Exports Guarantee Scheme.

Associated with the two-year-old scheme for collaboration, there was another plan involving the use of retired businessmen as special counsellors, giving independent advice.

## Suppliers fear curb on non-EEC scrap sales

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Prospects for some improvement in the fortunes of the United Kingdom scrap industry have emerged with the recent increase in buying prices introduced by the British Steel Corporation.

But the scrap processing industry in the form of the Government may introduce measures to curb the flow of scrap to countries outside the EEC in response to pressure from both the BSC and the private sector steelmakers.

Because of the poor demand for steel, the BSC and the private sector companies have progressively reduced their purchases of scrap over the past 12 months. Stocks held by both steel companies and the scrap processing industry have risen to new high levels.

For most of last year, members of the British Scrap Association found the export of scrap to countries outside the EEC market with any prospect of the scrap industry's exports will introduce curbs on exports.

Both the BSC and the scrap processors have expressed concern over existing scrap supply in the United Kingdom. If exports rise considerably, scrap industry fears Government will pressure from scrap processors to raise the level of scrap exported.

Recently, they lifted their buying price for scrap by between £3 and £4 a tonne, although industry indicated companies in the private sector had not suit.

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# Schroders

The Earl of Airlie,  
Chairman of Schroders Limited, reports on 1977

The disclosed consolidated profit, after taxation and transfers to inner reserves, amounted to £3,504,000 compared with £2,213,000 in 1976. A maximum permitted final dividend is recommended; making a total for the year of 11.5515p per share compared with 10.2425p per share for 1976.

The earnings of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited exceeded the previous year's record level. The banking division's profits were higher than ever before; the investment division had another successful year and the company finance division made its highest ever contribution to the bank's results. Schroder Life made further progress and Schroder Leasing achieved record results for the third year running.

The most important single development during 1977 was the announcement of a plan to increase the capital of our United States subsidiary. This was put into effect at the beginning of this year and, whilst the benefits can be expected to accrue only over a period of years, the expansion will enable us to increase our commercial banking business and so to lay a base for the broader growth of our United States companies as a whole. Earnings from the Group's United States operations moderately exceeded those for 1976.

In Switzerland J. Henry Schroder Bank A.G. again made good progress in all areas of its business.

In Australia the Schroder, Darling Group earned a slightly lower profit in the year to 30th June, 1977; however, in the half year to 31st December, 1977 a decline in interest rates resulted in an improved return from the banking operations.

Schroders & Chartered Limited continued to play an increasingly important role in the Hong Kong market and Singapore International Merchant Bankers Limited achieved increased profits in the first full year since we took a 25 per cent interest.

The Group is making encouraging progress in developing business in the Middle East, and our traditional banking activities in Latin America have continued to expand.

Although Property Holdings International Limited has made considerable progress in realising investments, some profitably, the results for 1977 showed another substantial loss. On present expectations, any loss for the current year should be materially lower than in either of the last two years.

Present indications are that this year will see a relatively low rate of growth in the major economies and in



## BUDGET, 1978

## DEDDED TAX

## Registration limit is now £10,000: on partial exemption eased

Representations poured in, covering everything from quarterly to annual accounting, changing technical rules on bad debt relief, registration limits (here the CBI has been a powerful advocate for raising the limit of £7,500) and even the style of tax-invoices given in the course of trading.

By December, the Commission of Customs and Excise will clearly be interested in detailed reforms, for it put out a consultative document on partial exemption rules (there are 100,000 partly exempt persons and the present system is considered cumbersome by the Community) and the Government is considering raising the limit to £10,000 a year (not a major concession but helpful).

The following month, the Treasury was promising a VAT procedure in the Budget. Unable to contain himself, Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and much aware of the problems of VAT for small businesses, confirmed that the Government was considering raising the tax threshold to £10,000 a year (not a major concession but helpful).

The real battle has been over annual accounting. VAT is a tax on turnover, not on profits, and the Government has been reluctant to accept a quarterly return based on multiplicity of invoices. One group has wanted quarterly advance interim payments with annual accounting and adjustment. Clearly this is helpful to small concerns but the Chancellor made, because of their limited

clerical resources and accounting systems.

Besides these, and other issues in VAT administration, there has been much lobbying over the multi-rate system used in Britain.

What mattered yesterday, of course, was the outcome, and some more VAT details are expected later today during the debate on the Chancellor's measures.

The registration limit goes up to £10,000 from April 12, but the new deregistration limit (up from £5,000 to £8,500) is delayed until July 1 for administrative reasons. This last change in deregistration enables 20,000 taxable persons to come off the register if they wish. But many may still prefer to stay on the taxman's books.

Relief for bad debts will start after October 1 and applies when debtors are made formally insolvent.

Among simplification of procedures are changes to rules for partial exemption to make more traders eligible for forward reduction in input tax. VAT return forms are to be simplified. Existing restraints on alignment of accounting periods for traders with sales under £50,000 a year are to be removed.

To help small VAT payers, cash books will be accepted as records for input tax purposes. There is also to be a higher limit for the provision of less detailed invoices, up from £10 to £25 for such things as meals, hotel bills, and petrol.

## HOTELS

## Allowances on new buildings welcomed

By Patricia Tisdall

A much-needed revival in hotel construction was forecast by the tourist trade yesterday as a result of granting tax allowances on hotel buildings for the first time.

The relief announced in the Budget will consist of an initial allowance of 20 per cent of the cost of new buildings and extensions and annual writing down allowances of 4 per cent.

The British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers Association, which has been campaigning for many years for hotels to be given parity with manufacturing industry in building allowances, welcomed the measures. Mr Clive Derby, the association's executive, said that they brought British hotels into line with the rest of the EEC.

The measures were also welcomed by Sir Mark Henig, chairman of the English Tourist Board which, with the other statutory tourist boards, has always maintained that hotels made a valuable contribution to invisible export earnings.

Since the ending of the 1969 grants scheme hoteliers have had severe difficulty in funding new hotel construction without pinching room tariffs unrealistically high.

At the same time, industry forecasts are that a further 65,400 new hotel bedrooms will be needed throughout the country by 1985 to satisfy demand from incoming foreign visitors and to encourage Britons to take their holidays at home.

The bulk of the demand is expected to be for lower tariff accommodation (less than £5 a night in 1974 prices). It is believed that no big new hotels have been started or planned in Britain since the ending of the grant scheme in 1973. The last new one in London, the Meika Hotel on the Thames Embankment, at



Mr Clive Derby, bringing hotels into line with EEC.

King's Reach, although started in 1972, is still unfinished.

In making the allowances, the Chancellor has singled out the hotel industry from other service trades. He has evidently accepted the hoteliers' argument that their premises, unlike those of shops and restaurants, cannot be readily adapted for any other purpose.

Previously the Government has argued that if industrial buildings allowance were granted to hotels it would be difficult to resist claims for similar treatment from other trades.

The Treasury has evidently been influenced by the hoteliers' claim that they are an important element in the tourist trade as a whole.

Revenue from foreign visitors has risen sharply in the last three years—from £1,123m (excluding fares) to an estimated £2,200m last year. The industry is also an important generator of employment.

The hoteliers see the allowances as an important incentive for investment that will enable them to compete in tourism much more fairly with other countries.

exemption of £1,000, will then be faced with a greater capital gains tax bill. The effective maximum rate for unitholders will rise from 17 1/2 to 20 per cent.

The injustices in the present CGT legislation have now been recognized by the Government and the Inland Revenue, but there are no sweeping changes despite the fact that in the fiscal year 1976-77 the tax yielded only £323.4m.

Tax was introduced on short-term gains in 1962, and a full-blown capital gains tax was presented in the 1965 Finance Act. Major reforms were enacted in 1971, when the distinction between short and long-term gains was abolished and a standard rate of 30 per cent brought in. Payment of capital gains on death was also removed, as was the possibility of a double liability on land development values.

The most important change, however, was to increase the small disposals allowance—the value of disposals which can be made in fiscal year without incurring CGT—to £500. That threshold was again increased to £1,000 in 1976.

The Government had committed itself to saying something about CGT in the Budget. Objections to the way the tax is levied largely centre on its failure to make allowances for inflation and the real value of assets.

## STATE INDUSTRY

## £2,283m to be raised from own resources

By Our Industrial Editor

Nationalized industries are planning to raise £2,283m from their own resources to finance a £4,160m projected programme of capital expenditure in the coming financial year 1978-79.

Some £1,057m of public dividend capital and net borrowing from the Exchequer, plus £220m of government grants will account for £1,877m of external financing.

The Chancellor's estimates of state industry funding are set out in the financial statement, which will be issued as a form at cash limit to control their £3,534m on fixed assets.

Major net borrowers will be the troubled British Steel Corporation, given £875m of support in the form of public capital and loans, and the National Coal Board, requiring £525m and another £100m grant as it can only raise £41m.

Biggest spender in the year ahead, will be the Post Office Corporation, with a £1,080m capital programme—it will finance it entirely from its own resources, repaying some past borrowing, too. Some £568m of government grants are scheduled for the British Railways Board.

The new British Shipbuilders will borrow £46m and get another £37m in grants, but the British Aerospace Corporation is better placed in generating 74m Exchequer finance.

Electric supply will be self sufficient in funding a £770m capital programme for England and Wales.

## ANTI-DUMPING

## 1969 Act to be repealed

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Legislation governing the treatment of anti-dumping applications is to be streamlined. Under the terms of a Budget, resolution of the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 is being repealed, except where the products involved are subject to the rules of the European Coal and Steel Community (mainly steel).

In this area the United Kingdom will retain the right to take independent action on any case relating to any ECSC products which is not dealt with by the ECSC Commission.

The move follows the recent transition to full Community membership, as a result of which responsibility for anti-dumping action on most products now rests with the Brussels authorities.

In a statement last night, the Department of Trade said that the measure would also provide a simpler procedure for the United Kingdom's implementation of anti-dumping duties, which have been recommended by the Commission in relation to ECSC products.

## STEEL CLOSURES

## Special measures to help local councils

By Peter Hill

Further measures for alleviating the problems of areas affected by the closure of steelworks by the British Steel Corporation, announced by Mr Healey yesterday are still the subject of Whitehall discussions.

The measures referred to by the Chancellor yesterday were announced by the Welsh Development Agency in the BSC which outlined the Government's concern to improve the infrastructure of areas to be affected by plant closures, but the remedial measures will be determined by the closure dates announced by the BSC.

Already the Government has pledged its support for the corporation's own efforts to attract new industry to areas where steel is being run down. This implies aid through the wide powers of the Industry Act together with grants towards social costs.

It is expected that the further special measures announced by the Chancellor will include more advance facilities for building new housing, assistance for firms establishing themselves in areas where steel-making is being phased out. Assistance towards the cost of roads and other measures is also likely.

Discussions are still taking place between departments on measures to cushion the burden on local authorities with steelworks in their areas. These authorities will suffer a loss of rate income as works are closed, although some of the loss will be compensated through rate support grant calculations, further support will be needed in some areas.

The White Paper stressed that in exceptional cases where the burden of closure was significant there would be extra help. The Department of Environment is involved in the discussions and any payments would be made in the form of a grant under the Appropriation Act.

This would not be a rate support grant but would be made as a separate payment, on a year-by-year basis. The scale and size of any payment will be determined by local circumstances.

## SMALL BUSINESSES

## Emphasis is placed on four areas in an effort to stimulate innovation

By Desmond Quigley

Considerable emphasis was placed by Mr Healey on the position of small businesses and how they could stimulate innovation and help in the fight against unemployment.

At one point he said: "This Budget will give special importance to the needs of small businesses."

The measures were centred on four broad areas: income tax relief on initial trading losses; capital gains tax adjustments; new corporation tax bands; and stock relief.

They fell very much in line with the benefits Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has been trying to secure for small businesses in the light of small business.

However, the Confederation of British Industry was hardly enthusiastic over the new measures, although it was less critical of the help to small concerns than of the Budget as a whole.

Mr Christopher Meakin, director of the CBI's small firms directorate, commented:

"Mr Healey repeatedly stated how he would help small firms, but there is a big gap between words and deeds. What he has done is welcome but it does not go far enough. He has been as good as Mr Lever's word, but he has not expanded on it very much."

By contrast, the National Farmers Union was happy not just with the income averaging element specifically introduced for farmers, but also with the general provisions for small concerns.

In a move designed to encourage would-be entrepreneurs to start their own businesses, Mr Healey announced that the relief on initial trading losses would be substantially expanded.

With effect from losses incurred in the current financial year and later, an entrepreneur will be able to set off first year losses for in any of the next three years against income of the previous three years.

On capital gains tax, loans or guarantees can be offered against the tax in the year the

loan becomes irrecoverable or the year after.

The measure applies to loans made from today. However, the relief will not extend to loans between spouses or between companies which are members of the same group for capital gains purposes.

Or significant help to small concerns should be the rollover relief for gifts of business assets. Under the proposals, tax liability, on agreement, can be deferred.

Mr Meakin commented that while this may help solve liquidity crises in small businesses, it would not help them to expand.

Retirement relief limits have been extended on the sale of businesses or shares in family businesses on retirement.

Reduced corporation tax rate bands have been extended again this year with the bottom band being raised from £40,000 to £50,000 and the upper band from £65,000 to £85,000.

Close companies have received attention with substantial increases in the exemption limit for apportionment of trading income. The after tax limit where none of its trading income counts as relevant income has been raised from £5,000 to £25,000 and the next abated band from £15,000 to £75,000, effective from accounting periods ending after last October 26.

The apportionment rules are also being eased on the acquisition of businesses.

Several representations made to Mr Lever and the Treasury by organizations representing small businesses have dealt with the future of stock relief and capital allowances on industrial buildings, which both featured in the Budget.

Where the Chancellor particularly disappointed small businessmen was the failure to make allowances in the capital gains tax for inflation by introducing some form of tapering and diminishing rate over the life of an investment.

However, small companies, which benefit their new status in political circles, will continue to receive attention from the Government.

## CONSTRUCTION

## Civil engineering chief disappointed at loss of 'crucial opportunity' to revive industry

There was great disappointment in the construction industry last night at the Chancellor's limited moves to increase its workload.

Precise details of the building industry's measures will not become apparent for another few days, but Mr Peter Galliford, chairman of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, said there was nothing in the Budget which would really help construction.

"It's a very disappointing outcome to the industry's attempt to educate the Government to the vital role construction has to play in regenerating the economy," he said.

In recent months, industry leaders have been emphasizing that unless substantial aid was forthcoming unemployment in construction, now standing at about 205,000, would continue to climb.

Mr Peter Morley, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, also expressed disappointment at a "crushing disappointment".

The Chancellor had missed a crucial opportunity to underpin the gradual recovery of the construction industry from its most severe recession in history.

Last October, Mr Healey announced £400m extra work for construction projects during the current financial year. But he had stopped halfway towards restoring the savings cuts—amounting to some £1,400m—made in 1976, Mr Morley said.

He added that he would be talking to the Department of Industry and Energy has begun work on a series of proposals, which are expected to concern

Builders can expect some work from the £20m to be spent on environmental services, such as the erection of small factories in rural areas by the Development Commission, and from provisions made for higher expenditure on law and order and sea defences.

But the Department of Education and Science confirmed last night that no increase in the schools building programme will result from the extra £40m now being made available for education.

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, will announce details of the £50 health service package tomorrow, but it is expected that very little will be spent on building work.

There was a grudging welcome for the allowances for hotel building, which was described by Mr Richard Hermon, director of the National Council of Building Material Producers, as "something, but not very exciting".

However, he said he was pleased that the Government was now going to provide funds to encourage private house insulation. How the scheme will work is to be announced later this week, but it is thought that some £20m in grants will be made available in the first year of its operation.

An announcement on measures to promote further energy-saving in industry and commerce is not expected until the early summer.

A committee of civil servants from the Department of Industry and Energy has begun work on a series of proposals, which are expected to concern



Mr Peter Morley: renewed appeal for aid soon.

Mr Galliford, a member of the group delegations, said yesterday that the Budget had confirmed the civil engineers' worst fears on seeing the public expenditure White Paper published last January.

This suggested that spending on infrastructure over the next few years would be only two-thirds of that spent on average over the previous 10 years.

The group of eight, recognises that the Government's capital spending plans should now bring a greater measure of stability to the industry, but it has always made it clear that the present level of intended spending is pitched too low.

## Jardines 1977 Profits HK\$314 Million

- HK\$314.2 million after tax earnings for 1977, compared with HK\$301.5 million in 1976, an increase of 4.2%. Earnings are before extraordinary items, which amounted to a net deduction of HK\$6.0 million.
- Earnings per stock unit up 2.7% from HK\$1.47 to HK\$1.51.
- Dividends raised. Final dividend of HK\$0.48 per stock unit recommended, making a total of HK\$0.67 for the year, an increase of 6.3%.
- HK\$200 million raised in June 1977 through issue of 71% Unsecured Guaranteed Bonds 1985. Liquidity remains satisfactory, term borrowing reduced.
- Hong Kong, the head office and main operating base, performed well and contributed 57% of overall earnings.
- Middle East investment in first full year contributed 6% of 1977 earnings.
- Improvement anticipated in 1978 from three quoted subsidiaries—Jardine Industries Ltd, Jardine Davies Inc, and Rennie Consolidated Holdings Ltd, after disappointing 1977.
- Increased Group profit and dividends expected in 1978.

D. K. Newbigging Chairman  
11th April, 1978

	1976 HK\$	1977 HK\$	1977 £
Earnings after tax	301.5m	314.2m	35.4m
Earnings per stock unit	1.47	1.51	17p
Dividends per stock unit	0.63	0.67	7.6p
Stockholders' funds	2,088m	2,249m	253.7m

Current converted from HK\$ at middle market closing rates on 31st December, 1977.

**JARDINES**  
Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., Connaught Centre, Hong Kong



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## New technology: Post Office steps to allay the fears of employees

From the chairman of the Post Office  
Sir, You published a letter from Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, on April 7. In this letter Mr Stanley referred to the grave problems caused for employees by technological changes. He referred to the national problem and also to the specific impact of change on employees of the Post Office.

His letter did not make it clear that the management of the Post Office has taken positive steps to allay the fears of employees:

1. We have offered to negotiate with Mr Stanley's union an undertaking that there would be no redundancies arising from telephone exchange modernization within a period of five years and we expect that this agreement would be renewed annually.

2. We do provide full training and redeployment facilities in the Post Office on a regular basis as our belief is that this is an essential step in organizing technological change.

Unfortunately we often find that employees believe that their particular kind of job on existing equipment is something that they should be permitted to carry out throughout the whole of their career, and we have considerable problems in persuading people to accept training and redeployment on to new types of equipment.

3. The Post Office has extensive arrangements for consultation at all levels from the top to the bottom and now has seven union nominees on the national board of the corporation. Thus there is every opportunity for discussing the question of change, and this is done.

4. The Post Office Board has made clear that its plan is to expand the telecommunications business and to seek new business opportunities with the aim of not only improving our services to customers but also providing additional job opportunities for those who are released as a result of technological change. Viewed in one such example.

Mr Stanley deals in his letter with a national problem. In

spite of his union's enlightened approach to change in the past his approach in his letter is regrettably short-sighted when he asks "what is it for us?" Furthermore, nowhere in his letter did he refer to the needs of the customer and the people to whom the service has to be sold.

Both industrial and domestic customers in this country want the best possible service in order to help them run their industries and their personal lives in an effective way, and it behoves all British industries, both service and manufacturing, to ensure that they are keeping pace with world trends in technological change.

These will not only bring improvements in facilities for customers but usually also give improved efficiency. Their adoption involves investment in new equipment and thus creates jobs in manufacturing industry.

Resistance to change seems to be a peculiarly British characteristic, and it is one of the reasons why British industry and indeed our national performance, has progressively slipped behind those of other countries which have been more willing to accept change.

Compare, for example, the rate of improvement of national performance in Japan with that of our own. The Japanese people have welcomed technological change and have benefited from it.

Only a few years ago Japanese workers were working for lower wages than those in Britain, but they are now earning much more than comparable people in this country. In the increased productivity brought about by new technological developments.

The whole question of technological change is indeed extremely complex, and being full of human problems deserves continuous thought from the leaders. If the unions and their members are understandably worried about the effect of change it is essential that they work with all parties to find solutions and not resist change unless there is something in it for us as individuals.

The subject should be dealt with on the broadest possible

scale because as a nation there is a great deal in it for all of us; but this will not be realized unless we all collaborate on the basis of contributing to the general prosperity rather than demanding sectional advances at the expense of the overall programmes.

The present union fashion of insisting on counting the specific benefits before changes are agreed can only delay the whole process, thus affecting their own prosperity as well as that of the nation.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM BARLOW,  
Post Office,  
23 Howland Street,  
London, W1.  
April 10.

From Mr R. Kahn  
Sir, In the special report on Communications (April 4) your Science Editor comments upon the immense impact which microcircuits and microcomputers have already had on traditional manufacturers of small calculators and watches. It is clear that the microelectronic silicon circuit is going to cause increased unemployment—an inbuilt unemployment in the economy caused by new technologies.

We can no longer pretend that there will ever be sufficient jobs in a society in which increased automation means less work in manufacturing and administrative tasks. We cannot avoid automation, but we can recognize that as unemployment increases we will need to establish adequate welfare benefits—which are not means tested—and much higher tax thresholds, so that the unemployed and low-paid are not crucified by new technologies which further divide privileged workers from the unemployed.

The days of full employment will never return; and the social implications of the silicon circuit are going to be very painful indeed. Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT KAHN,  
Director, Catholic Housing Aid Society,  
189a Old Brompton Road,  
London, SW5 0AR.

## THE BUDGET, 1978

## MONETARY POLICY

## Barely prudent and not so easily attainable

The Chancellor once again gave great emphasis to the importance of a prudent monetary policy. But there is little in his specific proposals that would at once suggest that his policy is overwhelmingly one of prudence, and there must also be doubt about the ease with which the monetary authorities will be able to carry the Chancellor's aims to fruition—a lot depending as usual on the reliability of the public sector borrowing requirements forecast.

In drawing up his Budget, one of the main considerations facing the Chancellor was the need to find a sensible and credible relationship between fiscal and monetary policy.

In other words, he had to decide how far the public sector could be allowed to add to the forces of monetary expansion through a higher public sector borrowing requirement, without creating a conflict with the limits he saw as prudent to set for overall monetary growth.

There is, after all, little point in pumping in so much money at one end of the economy that there is then no choice but to draw off excessive monetary growth at the other end, forcing up interest rates and squeezing private sector activity in the process.

As far as setting the target for overall monetary growth went, the choice cannot of course have been particularly easy.

On the one hand, the Government was clearly keen to inject as much life into the economy as it could, or at least as much as it felt to be consistent with a sustainable growth rate. On the other, it had to consider the reaction of monetarist oriented foreign exchange and domestic capital markets, whose confidence is essential to maintain.

Financial markets have, moreover, been in a state of increasing unease about the trend in monetary growth over

recent months, and the more nervous markets are, the more difficult it becomes for the government to restrict monetary growth by selling its paper outside the banking system.

Although it is arguable that much of the upward pressure on money supply in the year ending next Wednesday has come from a strong inflow of funds that are never likely to be spent in the United Kingdom, many monetarists consider this to be irrelevant.

Only last week, influential stockbrokers W. Greenwell argued that the source of monetary growth was unimportant, that monetary growth was definitely excessive, and that action was now needed to curb this growth.

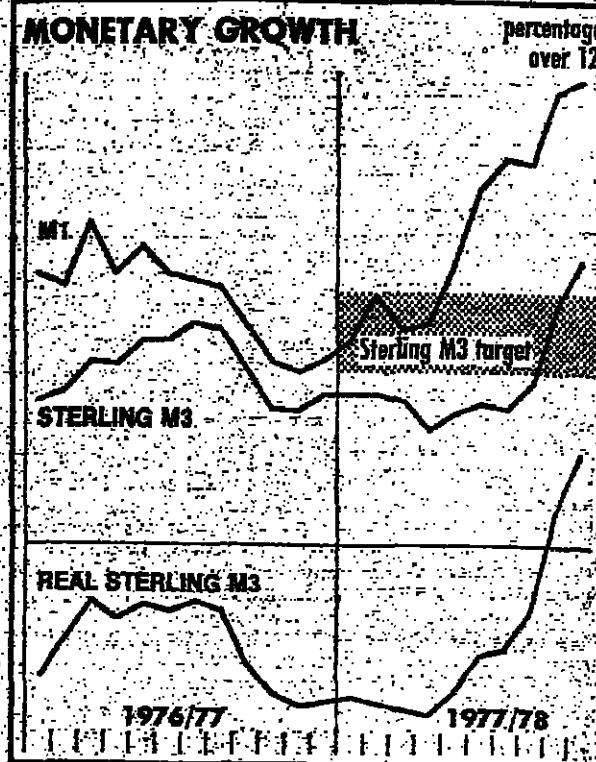
Even those who have been less worried about the recent bludge to monetary growth have started to argue that in view of the steady fall in the rate of inflation in recent months the ceiling on monetary growth should be dropped significantly from the 12 per cent level for 1977-78, which now, incidentally, looks likely to be exceeded by up to 1 per cent.

In this context, the 1978-79 target of 8.42 per cent growth in sterling M3 in the 12 months to mid-April, 1979, is not entirely reassuring. Although annual money supply growth in the three financial years to April, 1977, was well below 10 per cent, the experience of the last year and the knowledge that the economy should now be starting to expand inevitably leads one to think in terms of the ceiling figure, rather than the range or even the midpoint in the range.

This may seem rather unfair in the sense that the median target of 10 per cent appears to fit consistently with targets for real growth of some 3 per cent and an average rate of inflation of 7 per cent for most of the period.

But at the same time there is no sign that monetary policy will be anything other than a ground factor in squeezing any further inflation out of the system.

The fact remains that the new



targets represent only a modest reduction on those for the monetary year that ends in March and will be based on a figure that seems likely to have exceeded last year's median target (11 per cent) by between 2 and 3 per cent.

If this were not in itself enough to create a feeling of some unease, there must also be some doubt as to how easily even the upper limit will, in fact, be met, at least without a fairly bumpy ride in the gilt market.

The Chancellor has, it is true, raised minimum lending rate with immediate effect. But that was the very minimum needed and was going to have to happen fairly quickly in any case.

Moreover, the way he went on to give warning of the main growth in the money supply being loaded into the first half of the next year was not exactly comforting.

Also, the argument that the meeting of monetary objectives should not require any increase in the restricted level of gilt sales is not quite as simple as that. It not only appears to rest on a conservative, rather than a liberal view, of the likely expansion in bank lending, but also assumes that the institutions are going to bite at gilt just as voraciously as last year, when there was every prospect

of significant capital reduction on those for the monetary year that ends in March and will be based on a figure that seems likely to have exceeded last year's median target (11 per cent) by between 2 and 3 per cent.

The problem here is that capital may help the sterling M3, but they do nothing to help the real M3, which is the one that counts in the long run.

The idea of the rolling targets for supply has been to Government rather than to the public. Under the terms of setting a target for the monetary year, it has been two main periods of the year to which the target applies.

First, there has been scope for modifying the course of the year to any significant changes in circumstances.

Second, the final target's obsession with the monetary year, which is based on target in the months has, against the authorities' wish, made the monetary growth final months of the year very complicated.

John W.

## Reducing land tax complexities

From Mr J. D. Slater

Sir, In his letter, published on April 5, Mr W. F. Harrup, while admitting the implications of the proposed Land Tax, that the "betterment" should be shared by the community whose presence, in no small degree, gives the land its value, points out the complexities involved in working out the values and in administering the details.

May I suggest that the purpose of the Bill would be much more satisfactorily served through the substitution of a straightforward measure introducing the taxation or rating of site values, as demonstrated, on two occasions in the experiments carried out at Whit-

stable, Kent, the second one being in 1963, and both being organized under the direction of Mr Fred Oslick, then secretary of the Rating and Valuation Association, and the Valuer, Mr Hector Wilks.

On those occasions it was demonstrated that the complexities were reduced to a minimum for the maximum benefit to the community while a sense of justice with the absence of exploitation were fundamental features of the measure. This certainly merits our closest scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES D. SLATER,  
Ridings Lane,  
Whalley Blackburn,  
Lancashire,  
April 6.

## Bank's choice of industrial advisers

From Mr N. Charlton

Sir, I hope that you are amused as I am over the Bank of England's choice of industrial advisers.

Neither of the two gentlemen has had any recognizable industrial experience; nor, perhaps more important, have they had a home in an industrial area.

Yours faithfully,  
N. CHARLTON,  
Willow Green,  
Lide Leigh,  
Northwich,  
Cheshire.

## ECONOMIC FORECASTS

## Faster growth but payments problems loom

Budgets, especially in an election year, are scrutinized first for the effects on living standards of the tax changes in them. But the traditional economic role of a budget is not so much to soften up an electorate or even to please the markets but to manage the economy.

The Budget judgment is made in the light of very detailed forecasts for the economy worked out over weeks and months by the Treasury. The bulk of the forecasts and, just as important, the assumptions on which they are based are still—sadly—kept secret.

But we are given the bare bones of the official forecasts in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

So what does the Treasury's crystal ball see for this year? The main forecast, which has a less optimistic view of Britain's performance looks like this. First, Mr Healey expects the economy to grow by 3 per cent a year over the 12 months to mid-1979. This performance, although miserably low by international standards, would be the best that Britain has achieved for five years.

The Government's borrowing requirement, a key component of the money supply, is now expected to be £8,500m in the year to April, 1979. This is within the £8,500m ceiling

given as an "expectation" to the International Monetary Fund. Inflation is expected to decline this year to about 7 per cent at an annual rate and then to accelerate slightly to reach 8 per cent in the year to the middle of 1979.

Living standards are expected to continue the sharp rise shown in the last quarter of 1977. Real personal disposable income, after allowing for tax and inflation, is expected to be up by about 7 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the same period in 1977. This rise will then slow down.

The boost to living standards—a large part of which is due to the tax cuts—is expected to fuel a "mini" consumer boom, and to add initially to the proportion of income which is saved.

There is a rise in consumer spending of 4 per cent in the year to mid-1979 is an important element in the overall growth of the economy. Public spending is now forecast to rise by 5 per cent in real terms between 1977-78 and 1978-79.

Manufacturing investment in the private sector, which has been surprisingly buoyant this year, given the state of demand, is expected to rise by the same 14 per cent in the next 12 months.

One of the most gloomy of

yesterday's official forecasts is that of the balance of payments. The Treasury is known to take a pessimistic view of Britain's trade prospects and to be worried by the seemingly inexorable rise in imports which accompanies any sign of growth.

Its estimates of a mere £750m surplus on the current account of the balance of payments this year, dwindling to £250m in the first half of 1979, is bound to strike the foreign exchange markets. It is especially depressing given the optimistic assumption made in the forecasts for the likely growth in world trade and British competitiveness. British exports are expected to rise by 5 per cent in volume terms, while imports go up by 8 per cent.

So much for the published forecasts. But, as Mr Healey pointed out, the forecasts have a "margin for error" which is "uncomfortably large". A comparison of past forecasts with the way things have actually turned out shows how true that is.

The PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) admittedly probably the hardest item to forecast, accuracy has been widely out for the past few years.

The Treasury's recent record for gross domestic product (gdp) forecasts has also been

fairly dismal (although to be fair it admits to a 2 per cent margin of error). The Budget measures announced yesterday are actually too small to offset the downward revisions which the Government has made to its growth forecast since the last economic package in October.

Mr Healey seemed to imply in one comment yesterday that, given the difficulties of making accurate forecasts, it would be better to publish none at all. This is surely the wrong reaction. If the Government is to have its economic policy, forecasts—however bad they may be—then it should be prepared to reveal the nature of those forecasts.

There are various reasons for the frequent errors—some of which are more excusable than others. First are those which arise from one-way predictability and instability of observed economic relationships.

Secondly, the Treasury's (and everyone else's) computer models of the economy are less grand than they sound. An enormous number of assumptions have to be made about the movement of key variables such as the growth of the world economy, the proportion of incomes which is saved and the rise in savings.

But, besides these errors, which can be explained, albeit somewhat unsatisfactorily, by the inadequate state of economic knowledge, are some which result from a fairly blatant "massaging" of the figures which are to be published.

What of the assumptions this time round? The most doubtful are—as usual—those for world trade and United Kingdom earnings. The Treasury's forecasts of a 6 per cent growth in total OECD trade, and 7 per cent in trade of manufactures, looks over-optimistic.

They are well above those made by other forecasters, and rely on a reversal of the recent trend whereby world trade has grown more slowly than suggested by past relationships for any given increase in production.

As this is probably associated with a rise in protectionism in reaction to high world unemployment, it seems unlikely to change in the next year.

The Chancellor has not set out his earnings assumption and has said merely that the average rise during the year round to mid-1979 should be half of that in the present year. This suggests a figure of about 7 per cent.

Few are willing to take bets on the prospects for a possible phase four, but the dramatic success assumed here looks doubtful to say the least.

If earnings do rise more rapidly and if, as seems likely, there is a fall in the value of the pound on the exchanges, the inflation forecast is also thrown into question.

It is this which remains the key to Britain's chance of growth. The Government assumes an improvement in price competitiveness this year and still the balance of payments constraint on growth looms large.

Caroline Atkinson

## STOCK RELIEF

## Company to be spared deferred

One of the greatest relief for the stock market was the announcement that the company would be spared deferred tax.

The relief given appreciation, which has been a major factor in the recovery of the stock market since the Budget.

As with relief from deferred tax, the company's relief from deferred tax will be a major factor in the recovery of the stock market.

In practice, the relief from deferred tax will be a major factor in the recovery of the stock market.

Accountants' views on deferred tax relief will be a major factor in the recovery of the stock market.

The Chancellor's proposal that stock appreciation was meant only as a measure while the company was in the process of being sold, was a major factor in the recovery of the stock market.

It would clearly be a waste of effort to have a system of deferred tax which would be based on the company's value at the time of its sale.

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# 1977 a year of 'firsts' for Bristol & West.



Mr Andrew Breach, C.B.E., Chairman of Bristol & West Building Society, reports a year of notable achievement in his address to members on April 11th 1978.

For the first time the Society's growth rate exceeded 30 per cent. Total assets grew by £132 million to £569 million—again the highest percentage growth in the top twenty societies.

For the first time the inflow of investors' funds exceeded £200 million. Gross receipts were £289 million and, after deducting withdrawals, the net inflow was £121 million—twice the previous year's figure.

For the first time advances exceeded £100 million in the year.

The Society also finished the year with—

...exceptional liquidity, with cash and investments totalling £178 million, and available at very short notice.

...a reserve ratio of 3.95% of total assets.

...and more than 100 branches, with 12 new offices opened during the year, and a further dozen planned for 1978.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Report and full Chairman's Statement, please apply to: The Secretary, Bristol & West Building Society, The Bristol & West Building, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX. Telephone: 0272 294271.

**Bristol & West  
BUILDING SOCIETY**  
Where ££'s keep fighting fit  
A MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

*John W. Slater*

## Business D





BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## A delicate balance

Mr Healey has played a delicate balancing act on the stock market. His central of an £8,500m Public Sector Requirement and 12 per cent rise in the money stock are both high for comfort.

He held out the possibility, pay of a lowering of monetary the autumn, and his relatively fiscal stance—his “give-away” offends fiscal drag—suggests he is deliberately pinching the PSBR unpredictable above real.

He, on the other side of the has thrown a better March figures and an immediate one in Minimum Lending Rate which will defuse the immediate expectation interest rate rises.

He is talking about no more inflation between the middle and next year, which will under-stand real returns presently at the 12 per cent yields at the gilt market. Whether short yet high enough to satisfy the demands is a moot point, but the may be close to a platform from gilt selling programme can be does not add up to a basic for gilt-edged bull market. The trade he pounced and wages remain worry, and the underlying con- present policies point to rising as into 1979 will not be assuaged neither's forecast that he expects to fall later this year.

He investors might be rash to move more than a renege under- ground present levels, the gilt-ids are still likely to prove more a long-term funds than equities, live little extra help from the in they have already been dis-Admittedly, the Government is committed to continuing stock it was, but the central issue of mrois remains unresolved.

spending  
y increase in indirect taxes (for- ing at least, no change in value and the absence of any stimulus areas like construction, the only Budget for equities on a sector-asis is limited to the impact of-uns on the level of consumer

personal consumption has despite last October's income as and even with the 7 per cent in disposable incomes from ax cuts up to the middle of official forecast is still for only growth in personal consumption, w most City estimates.

be upset by movements in the o—presently at an historically of more than 15 per cent—as nes down. A one-point fall in worth 1 per cent to consumer but while a full scale consumer unlikely this year, consumer sectors should at least have mid prospects to support them or more of slack growth.

his has already been discounted ce terms in the past few months and consumer durables all their peak in price-relative the other sectors of the market, here poor profit figures are a influence, consumer durable id all start to be producing re soon after the lacklustre per-rom the likes of Hoover and rnational.

f there is no High-Street boom, should at least be a supporting as should yesterday's minor edit controls.

in hotels, for whom the budget's wances will boost cash flow if r spite of building, the chief n Mr Healey's budget were the

clearing banks. For them the almost inevitable rise in base rates in the train of the 1 per cent MLR rise to 7½ per cent will come in the nick of time to improve profits on retail banking.

Coming at a time when the Price Commission charges, clearing bank shares may soon capitalize on the recent round of good profit figures.

Leslie & Godwin

### An American at Lloyd's

Bid talks at Leslie & Godwin have emerged only a few days before the group was due to announce 1977 profits only fractionally up at £4.1m—and a good £1m below market estimates.

So for long-suffering shareholders in one of the insurance broking sector's poorest performers, the approach, from the American broker, Frank B. Hall, is welcome. This move however could establish precedents which might have far-reaching effects on the structure of the London insurance market, and raises interesting questions— not least for Sedgwick Forbes and Bland Payne, who currently handle the majority of Hall's business in London.



Mr Jacob Rothschild, chairman of Leslie & Godwin.

The takeover to be achieved through a new British holding group owned 80 per cent by Hall and 20 per cent by Rothschild, whose Rothschild Investment Trust holds about 10 per cent of L & G, is already guaranteed to be a main item on the agenda when the Committee of Lloyd's meets next week.

Lloyd's only accepts business through its own accredited brokers and Leslie & Godwin is one of only 273 firms which enjoy that special status. Although several foreign groups have minority stakes in Lloyd's firms, the Committee will, obviously, feel obliged to look long and hard at a deal which would bring an American firm directly into the market.

Proponents of the deal can argue that in this aspect a precedent has already been set through the virtual purchase of Clarkson by an Italian consortium during the Shipping Industrial Holdings takeover, although special factors were involved there. But for leading British brokers who have enjoyed substantial benefits from splitting commission on American business brought to the London market, the establishment of direct United States links seem ominous.

Lloyd's could effectively block the merger by removing L & G's status but in that respect its 1968 decision to allow foreign “names” in under-writing syndicates would be seen as a crucial precedent. It was a decision taken in the name of internationalism and any reversal of policy might be embarrassing.

L & G has suffered in comparison in recent years through its high exposure to the British market, while other groups were benefitting from exchange gains on surging United States business.

However, Hall have to offer at least 125p a share compared with the suspension price of 93p, which would value the L & G at just under £25m. This would represent an exit p/e ratio of over 13 and well above the sector average and would raise interesting questions about the values of more successful groups.

## THE BUDGET, 1978

### INCOME TAX

## Concessions spread too thinly

The great theme of Mr Healey's first Budget speech, in 1974, was the need for greatly increased income tax on the very rich, middling rich, property developers, children, oilmen, the quick and the dead, anyone near at hand. Now, four years later, Mr Healey has come to believe in the virtue of tax cuts; but his bounty has not been dispersed as widely as was his wrath then.

Of the various alternatives open to him, Mr Healey has plumped heavily in favour of the reduced rate band: the first £750 of taxable income chargeable at 25 per cent. This has absorbed nearly £1,600m, and the great bulk of the money available. As a result, all the other concessions of the income tax system have become mere passing snips with the scissors, not calculated to alter the overall profile very much.

What then has been Mr Healey's strategy? There were five different forms of reshaping open to him: why this one? First, to start at the lowest point in the scale of things, there is always raising of the thresholds of taxation. This is a small concession, but it is a concession in eliminating costly small taxpayers from the system, and politically attractive in winning votes at the lowest cash cost.

Mr Healey's increases in personal relief of £40 for single persons and £80 for married men look trivial, and the only justifications for them seem to be that they offset the reductions in this year's tax child relief. The swing from tax relief to cash benefits has been painful for higher rate taxpayers who have in successive years lost more than they have gained. The personal relief increases will help compensate.

But Mr Healey seems to have taken the view that he did enough to uplift thresholds last October, and he is fortified by the fact that the 12 per cent uplift accorded then has produced a result exceeding what would be required, according to the Rooker/Wise indexation formula enshrined in the 1977 Finance Act. So he has felt able to leave thresholds much as they were.

Secondly, there was the widely prophesied option that the basic rate of tax from 34 per cent. He attempted this in 1977

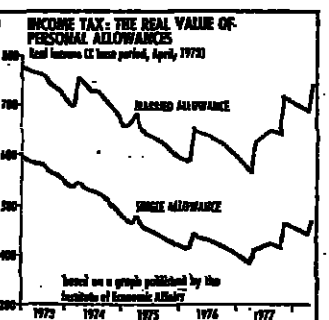
but without success, and by any international standards, it does seem that 34 per cent is depressingly high. Changes in basic rate can generally be pushed through without a complete PAYE manual re-coding, a factor which might have been expected to influence Mr Healey at a time when the Revenue department is protesting loudly about the pressures imposed upon it.

Mr Healey did not descend to tell us why he failed to address himself to this aspect, but perhaps he is leaving something for Mr Padoa-Schioppa during the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

Next, there is the question of the degree of progressiveness of the scale, the concavity of the tax curve. It is axiomatic that progressiveness, as such, is required, and it is the steepness of the progression that is in question.

The effect of inflation has been imperceptibly to compress the scale and to compress the scale is more progressive than was originally intended. The case for pulling out this concavities has been an overwhelming one. To index back to 1973, Mr Healey would need to have broadened the higher rate bands, so that the maximum rate of 83 per cent would have been reached at about £40,000 per annum, instead of £21,000, the corresponding level for 1977/8.

What Mr Healey has done falls far short of this ideal. The new higher rate scale commences at a threshold of £7,000, which is an uplift of £1,000, incorporates two new bands of £1,500, where the corresponding bands were formerly £1,000 and £2,000 respectively, and emerges at the end of the line, after other changes, pitching



the lowest paid to clamber out of the poverty trap does not impress. Those who in the past were in receipt of social security benefits, and who, simultaneously were liable to pay income tax will remain in that same position.

To be extricated from the trap an exemption from income tax would have been required. The fact that an individual can be receiving social security and paying tax at 25 per cent instead of at 34 per cent does not make his position less anomalous in principle. The poverty trap will still be there, merely 9 per cent less deep.

Marshalling all one's impartiality, it is impossible to come to any conclusion other than that Mr Healey has plumped for the reduced rate because it was sought—for the second year in succession—by the TUC, and he has found it impossible to continue resisting that demand.

Like the shrewd politician he is, Mr Healey has concluded it

the 83 per cent marginal rate at an income point of £23,000, an uplift of £2,800. One cannot resist commenting that Mr Healey is merely picking at his problem—assuming, that is, he believes his own fine words about incentives towards national expansion.

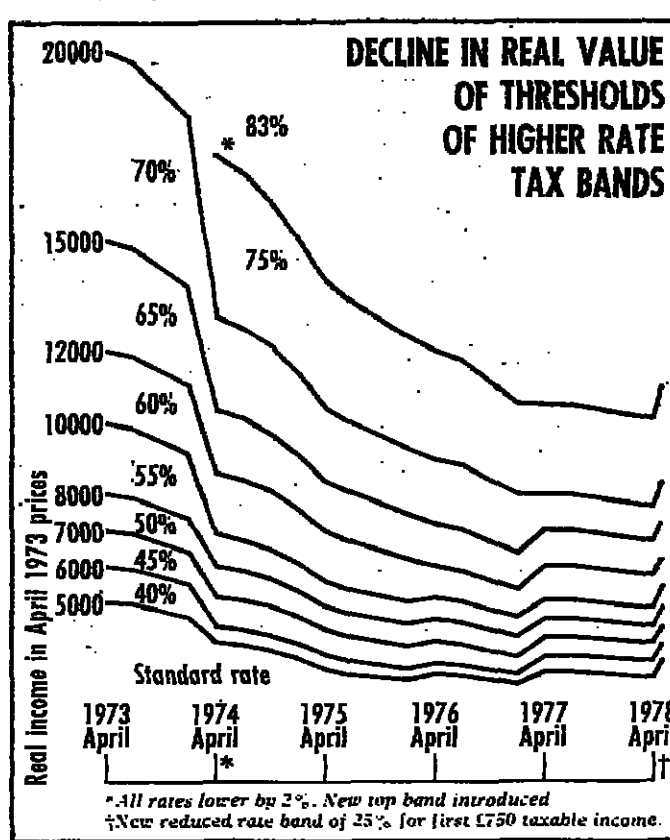
As for the top-marginal rate itself, Mr Healey has had none of that. There has been a chorus of shouts in the country that the existence of a rate of 83 per cent (or 98 per cent including the investment income surcharge) is a horrible anomaly, and a psychological disincentive to greater effort, affecting not only those actually paying at that rate, but many more who aspire to becoming entitled to pay at some happy time in the future. There is no doubt that many taxpayers confuse their average rate (total income divided by total tax) with their marginal rate—that at which the last pound of income is clovered. Moreover, reductions of the top rate are not costly in yield terms since the numbers of taxpayers within the bracket are small.

Of all the multitudinous representations made to Mr Healey about the shape of the income tax, there has been only one which has “particularly impressed” Mr Healey.

It was the argument that the rate at which people become liable to enter income tax is too high. As a result, many of the lower paid are little better off in real terms than they were. And to solve the problem of the poverty trap, we are to have a reduced rate, a massively expensive introduction, which will in itself eliminate no one from the system, but will be the new marginal rate for some four million taxpayers.

Other taxpayers, whose who remain within liability to the basic rate, will be £130 per week better off, a relatively trivial relief, considering the amount of additional administrative effort involved. That is the weakness of a reduced rate, as Mr Healey himself explained in last year's Budget debate. It spreads the available relief too thinly with too little to show for it in each pair of individual taxpayer's hands.

The argument that a reduced rate has been selected to enable



\* All rates lower by 2%. New top band introduced.  
† New reduced rate band of 35% for first £750 taxable income.

is more important to get his traditional Labour supporters the polling booths, than it is to try to win over to his cause, executives (still) paying at 83 per cent. If the middle-class voter is swayed to Mr Healey's cause, it will not have been because of any reductions of his tax bill, nor because of any significant rise in his living standards.

British businessmen have spent some time during the past three months, pondering whether it was realistic to recommend to Mr Healey, that the top rate should be cut to 50 per cent or “only” 75 per cent. What Mr Healey has thought about it all, he has not so far said. But it does seem that some reduction—however politically “difficult” might have got through this time, if only as a quid pro quo for the reduced rate band. This particular opportunity has been totally wasted....

Like the shrewd politician he is, Mr Healey has concluded it

Oliver Stanley

### PROFIT SHARING

## Scheme favoured by the Liberals is fully accepted

The Liberals' most favoured profit sharing scheme has been widely accepted by the Chancellor. He said profit sharing could improve employer-employee relations, encourage efficiency and promote growth and that the third method described in the Finance Bill would come into effect next year.

He added that the limit per employee each year for such a scheme would be £500, which is also exactly as outlined in the Green Paper.

The approved method involves the most administrative work for companies but represents the most radical proposal in the document.

Under it a company is allowed to make a yearly allocation for sharing. This money will be used to buy shares in the company at full value which would be allocated to employees but kept in a trust for at least five years.

If an employee wish to sell after a set period, income tax would be levied on only half the proceeds. If he held on for over 10 years only 25 per cent of the proceeds would attract income tax. Any capital profit

on the acquisition cost would be subject to capital gains tax in the normal way.

Mr Roy Close, the director general of the British Institute of Management, said he expected his members to react cautiously to the move.

They would be disappointed, he said, that no flexibility in profit sharing schemes was made seemed more prompted by immediate expediency when more thorough measures should have been taken years ago.

The Government has had two months to consider reactions to the document on profit sharing. In February, Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that it was intended to include in the Budget provisions to encourage profit sharing and these would take account of any comments made on the document.

Apart from the fanfares and celebrations from the Liberals, whose parliamentary position had forced the whole scheme on the Government, those comments were distinctly guarded. Many seemed overbalanced by the fear that political consideration might lead to the launching of an ill-considered plan.

Several important questions have been raised, the first being that the tax incentives proposed would be of use only to listed companies—excluding the unquoted and nationalized sectors.

Secondly, the restriction of the scheme to shares in the employing company would compulsorily give the employee an unbalanced investment portfolio. Thus an employee who had worked for a company for some time and then wanted to liquidate his investment would find he had little to come if his company or the stock market fell on hard times.

Finally, in general terms, it has been questioned whether the scale and style of profit sharing being encouraged could possibly have any effect on productivity, the central aim of the whole idea in the first place.

Three methods were suggested in the document. The Liberals regarded only the third as a “break through” and recently the Conservative Committee of Accountancy Bodies said that it would expect this to be the most popular among companies.

The first method involved the allocation of part of company profits to cash bonuses to

be used after tax to buy restricted shares in the company. If they were eventually sold, capital gains tax would be paid from the base of the unrestricted cost which, typically, would be 30 per cent over the reduced cost for which they were acquired.

Method two was similar, except the employees would directly acquire shares at a bargain price. He would be lent money to do this by the company to be repaid on the sale of the holding or out of future earnings.

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Bryan Appleyard

## Business Diary: More power to Sir Francis?

Paper on the re- of the electricity say is almost as or what it leaves it leaves in. This meant naturally personalities who inevitably swept up e—and particularly bombs, chairman of ly Council.

new scheme be the industry's new statutory allyed the Electricity replaces the coun- overall control of lary boards cor- to the Central Generating Board area electricity

act of this top job am a year ago the many Tony Benn Sir Francis, then the South of Scot- city Board, to the hfortunately. Sir aspects no longer a bright.

Paper had to be ther quickly when warty Liberal Party support the passage for reorganization House.

es proposed in the have still to find through the parlia- leasable—and it now dy to do so during the Government.

the conditions upon arguments for re- were based have by criticized the industry's tariff and nes (the Electric- ck of consultation generating and the of the industry.

this has been the recent forma- tive board of Electricity Genera-



Time to throw the switch on the electricity industry? Electricity Council's Sir Francis Tombs (left) and the CEGB's Glyn England with the Secretary of State for Energy, Tony Benn.

ing Board under the CEGB's new chairman Glyn England, another Tony Benn appoint- ment.

England and his board are no longer convinced of the need for Plowden-type reorganiza- tion, since communication is now much better between the main organizations in the industry.

addressing themselves to the opposite theme of industries at risk at a symposium being organized by the London Europe Society.

For good measure, the organizers have secured the services of Bernard Broom, the EEC's director general for industrial affairs, to act as chairman.

As well as basking the ring, Broom is likely to drop a few gentle hints that the two industries might lend a bit more support to the efforts that an mission is making to stabilize the two industries which are facing calamitous market conditions.

By any standards the career of Professor Wilhelm Hanel has been chequered.

An impressive rise, as the youthful head of the influential money and credit department in the Bonn economics ministry of Karl Schiller, was followed by a spectacular fall when during his presidency the Hanielische Landesbank emerged as the biggest loser in the West German banking history.

Now Hanel has come bouncing back as the author of a book on the economics of the Roman Empire. He was back in Bonn the other day to present it to the press.

The title of the book can be roughly translated: *Caesar's 700,000 Golden Age*. Hanel is doubtless hoping that the book will do for him what Caesar did for ancient Rome.

Employees of the Govern- ment's huge new child benefit centre in Washington new town have been given an unusual amenity. On the lake, provided as part of the landscaping, live several families of ducks— provided by the Department of the Environment.

Senior officials at the centre defensively point out that the

lake was provided as part of the building and has nothing to do with them and that anyway they hold dances from time to time to raise money to main- tain the local bird life. The last one raised £180.

No one seems to know how much it costs the Department of the Environment to provide the ducks and the food to main- tain them and the department has so far not rung back to tell us. The pond's residents have recently been joined by an intrepid coot, that simply turned up one day to enjoy the amenities provided for livestock on the Civil Service expenses list.

It may also have been lured there by the sudden appearance of nesting islands, complete with ladders leading up to enclosed huts to allow ducks, coots or our other web-footed friends to have their eggs safe from the prying eyes of the civil servants.

It's as difficult as it is pointless to sex a coot (unless of course you're another coot) but we know, if a female, is aware of hope that this newly-arrived the DHSS's draconic policy of stopping benefit to ladies found to be cohabiting.

Be sure that if anybody can get to the bottom of the matter it will be a DHSS snooper.

A Budget day encomium on life under Denis Healey (and Freddie Laker) was delivered in London yesterday by an American visitor, Jack Cohen. Cohen is an executive vice-president of Greyhound Lines, the coach and tour operator, whose United Kingdom business has nearly doubled so far this year. Addressing British travel executives at the Savoy Hotel he said: "It's now cheaper to travel than to stay at home. God bless the economy that makes this possible."

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	1978	1977
Net assets attributable to shareholders	£43.7m	£39.1m
Net asset value per share	52.9p	47.5p
Revenue available for ordinary shareholders	£1,119,793	£876,178
Earnings per ordinary share	1.419p	1.136p
Earnings per ordinary share assuming full conversion of B ordinary shares	1.358p	1.065p
Dividends per ordinary share	1.350p	1.100p
Capitalisation issue (B ordinary shares)	3.86640%	3.56496%

### DIVIDENDS

The directors recommend that a final dividend of 0.85p per share be paid on the ordinary shares, making a total for the year of 1.35p per share. This total dividend compares with a forecast of not less than 1.20p indicated in the interim statement last August, and represents an increase of 22.7 per cent over last year's dividend of 1.10p.

### POLICY AND PROSPECTS

In the United Kingdom there have been a number of favourable developments since the financial crisis of October 1976. Both gilt-edged securities and equities moved ahead,

although there has been some reaction from the high points reached in the autumn of 1977. The directors consider it appropriate at present to maintain about 25 to 30 per cent of the United Kingdom portfolio in cash and short-dated gilts.

In the United States, despite apparently sound fundamental forces in the economy, confidence has continued to languish. The directors believe that common stocks are now very cheap in relation to assets, earnings and dividends, and it is their policy to maintain a fully-invested position.

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	1978 %	1977 %
United Kingdom	43.9	33.7
U.S.A. & Canada	32.6	32.8
Japan & Far East	3.2	4.1
Europe	1.9	2.7
South America	1.0	0.9
Fixed Interest	9.0	5.9
Cash and short term deposits	8.4	19.9
	100.0	100.0

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the managers and secretaries, Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., at 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB where the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th May 1978, at 12.15 p.m.







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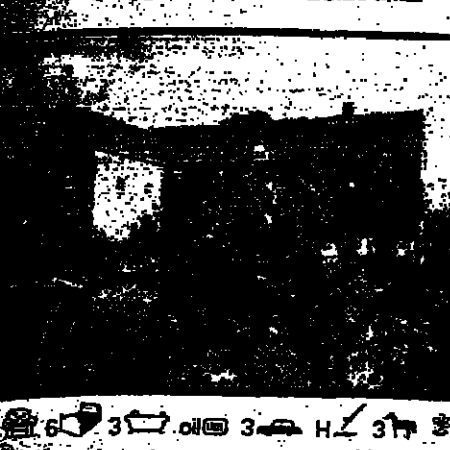




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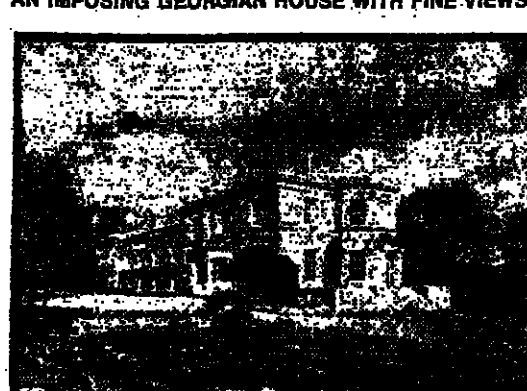
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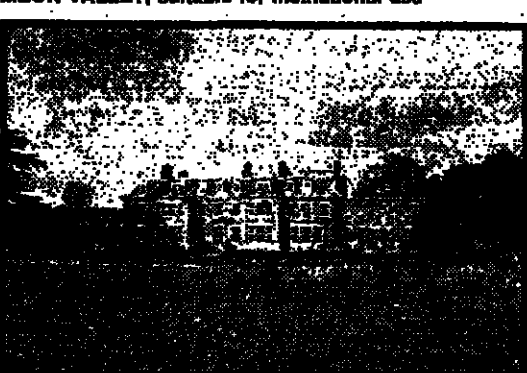
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ALSO ON PAGES 14 AND 30

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room and has the further advantage of a  
6th south western facing terrace as well as  
two large balconies.

Each Penthouse is further  
enhanced by the well level accommodation,  
the flying gallery and the open views  
through double height windows.

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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

# Isn't your long-term future worth more than 20 short words?



Could you fully describe a job you've had in 20 words?

Of course you couldn't. There just wouldn't be room to tell the whole story.

That's why, although the classifieds are one way to find a job, we think Brook Street's a better way.

Your Personal Adviser will spend plenty of time with you at Brook Street.

## YOUR PERSONAL ADVISER

Which job should you try for? What will the boss be like? What will the offices be like? What kind of secretary will they want? Are the prospects good? Is the salary fair?

When you find a job through Brook Street you will know the answers to all these questions before you go for your interview with the employer. Your Personal Adviser sees to that.

She (or he) is a job expert, thoroughly and professionally trained. She'll spend time with you. You'll chat. Perhaps about the kind of clothes you like, about the things you like doing, the people you get on with and, of course, about what you're best at.

She knows people and she knows the world of business, the facts that have to be faced and the fun side too.

And remember her advice and experience don't cost you a penny.

## MORE CHOICE OF JOBS

In Greater London even the best classified columns only offer you a few hundred office vacancies a day.

But walk into any Brook Street branch and you'll find literally thousands of vacancies on our books. Yes thousands! "Just numbers" you might say. But what those numbers mean to you is that a choice of two or three jobs that might suit you in the classified columns has to be compared with 10 or 15 or more at a branch of Brook Street.

No one offers you a wider range of salary levels and responsibility levels than Brook Street.

## MORE CHOICE OF COMPANIES

Of course, you can only be more choosy there's more choice.

Consider choice of companies. A small agency may know a few. Brook Street have contacts with 94 of the top 100 companies and a lot of smaller ones too. In fact we're in touch every kind of firm from the great organisations like Shell, Norwich Union and the Midland to smaller companies like A&M Records and Ryman Ltd.

## WHY BIGGER IS BEST

Brook Street grew big by "bothering" sensitively matching jobs and people.

The wider choice of jobs at Brook Street and your Personal Adviser's expertise together mean that we're so much more likely to have the job for you.

In London, every Brook Street branch have details of vacancies not just in its own area but in many others too.

And in fact, among Central London branches information about vacancies is exchanged twice a day.

So, for example, the Ealing Brook Street will have details of West End opportunities and the West End branches will know of any available openings in Ealing.

## SAVE TIME AND MONEY

We hope you'll find Brook Street expedites the number of interviews you have to have to a minimum and saves you time and money in telephoning, letter-writing and travelling about.

And consider that the backing of Brook Street is a recommendation in itself. Prospective employers will know you've been thoroughly tested and judged suitable by experts.

So why face your long-term future alone when there's free expert advice? Walk into Brook Street tomorrow. There's a branch near you. Or ring 01-629 8866 for details.

**BROOK STREET**  
BUREAU

All an employment service should be.

## WANTED Secretary

To assist our Chief Executive and his Executive Assistant in this busy Department which is the administrative centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

The candidate we are seeking will have:

- initiative
- ability to cope under pressure
- an opportunity to assume responsibility in this varied post
- been educated to 'O' or 'A' level standard
- excellent audio and secretarial skills

You will be:

- making arrangements for the President and Chief Executive for both internal and external functions
- organising their overseas travel arrangements
- dealing with Departmental Heads and others in senior management within the IEE.

### REWARDS

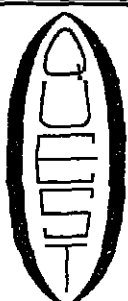
To the right person, we offer a salary of not less than £3,800 p.a. and the following benefits:

- 30 days annual leave
- 35 hour flexible working week with core time from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- heavily subsidised restaurant
- own office in a pleasant building located within a few minutes of Charing Cross

If this appeals to you, please telephone Diane Austin on 01-836 9359 for an application form.



THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



## SECRETARY/ ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANT £4,200

Our client is a large successful International Company with its modern head office located near Euston. This career appointment is extremely interesting since provision of a top secretarial service to the Manager of international facilities only constitutes fifty per cent of the activity. This Manager's area of responsibility encompasses the provision of housing for international directors who are attached to the company's head office for temporary periods. The Secretary will secure suitable premises, liaise with estate agents and view properties. Later, the Secretary will accompany the director and his wife to show the properties and assist generally with the actual move.

Applicants should possess superior shorthand and typing skills, intelligence and diplomacy, and be able to converse with and assist senior company executives.

The salary, around £4,200 to start plus 12 over excellent benefits, are paid and applications may be made by telephone to Mr. E. Santry: 202 0012 or in writing to:

QUEST CONSULTANTS LTD.

(Recruitment Specialists)

415 Hendon Way, NW4 3LH.

## Directors' Secretaries

up to £4,500

Action

These are two rewarding secretarial appointments for the newly appointed Group Personnel Director and another Main Board Director at Group Head Office. Salaries could be up to £4,500 for competent and experienced Secretaries. Unigate provides all the benefits expected of a major company and a pleasant working location in a modern office block with a green outlook and car parking facilities.

Please phone or write with brief career details to Eric Bowling, Head Office Personnel Manager, Unigate Limited, Western Avenue, London W3 6SH. Tel. 01-992 3400.



## ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

### Secretary to the President

We are sorry to be losing our President's secretary after ten years in this interesting but demanding post and applications are invited to fill the vacancy. Duties include dealing with correspondence, appointments, travel arrangements and the preparation of papers for the many meetings the President attends. The post is a busy one but offers the satisfaction of dealing with College affairs at the highest level. Good shorthand and typing speeds are essential but the successful applicant will also be required to demonstrate an ability to deal intelligently with people at a senior level both inside the college and in other organisations. A starting salary between £4,000 and £4,500 per annum is envisaged but this will be dependent on qualifications and experience. Other conditions of employment include pleasant offices overlooking Regent's Park, free lunches, flexible working hours and four weeks' annual leave on appointment.

Applications to The Secretary,

RCOG,

27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG, from whom further information may be obtained.

## TWO YOUNG SECRETARIES KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Two capable secretaries are required to run the office of an important but small company engaged in licensing for B.P., N.C.B., and N.R.D.C. The senior of the two acts as P.A. to the Managing Director and together the secretaries look after up to four other staff. Good secretarial skills are essential. Very pleasant offices.

Salaries Senior £3,500+

Junior £3,250+

4 weeks' annual leave plus statutory holidays.

Telephone 584 8352

### CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN HARLEY STREET

Requires Personal Secretary, audio typist for busy private practice. Full time. Salary to £3,000 p.a. Previous medical experience and fast, accurate typing essential. Contact Miss Meyer Medical & General Employment Agency 6 Portland St., W.1. Tel. 01-836 4061/2637

### EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

£4,250 For lunch, possible free trips to U.S.A. and annual bonus are only some of the fantastic perks. As P.A. to Chairman (who is also busy P.A. to Council) you will be involved in developing new areas and keeping up with present activity. Don't delay call Judy Knapp now on 427 1672. D.P. Executive Secretarial Consultants, 136 Regent Street, London, W.1.

### AUDIO PARTNERS SECRETARY

Helborn Solicitors Commercial conveyancing Modern offices, young team Salaries to £4,000 p.a. for suitable experienced applicant Please tel. 243 9065

### Audio Secretary required

Interesting position working for a private and investment department of a West End firm. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus L.V's. Tel. 01-491 7590

### SECRETARY BOOK PUBLISHING

The Publishing Director of Octopus Books requires a well educated, intelligent and competent Secretary. Location in Mayfair; excellent salary and benefits. Reply in writing to Ronald Settle OCTOPUS BOOKS LTD., 59 Grosvenor St., London, W.1.

### LEGAL SECRETARY

required for American law firm near Holborn Tube station. Must be able to deal with clients and work on own initiative. Shorthand and typewriting. Flexible hours. Salary mid. plus L.V's. Telephone Mrs. Day, on 242 5588

### NEWSWORTHY JO

£3,500+ Exciting career position in dynamic Advertising Agency. Immediate opportunity for advancement. Flexible P.A. to deal with media, press etc. Please telephone Bob 01-629 1228

### EXECUTIVE S/HAND SEC.

£3,000 p.a. - Challenging climate, stimulating diary and moving. Includes personal item and bonus from client. S.V. and L.V's. Great opportunity to join a dynamic team. ATLAS STAFF BUREAU, 194 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2. Tel. 253 0644.

### HYDE PARK ESTATE AGENTS

require Secretary/Secretary for small friendly office. Top salary + commission. Telephone: 402 7113

### SLOANE RANG

If you want to be with a dynamic, growing company, we offer you an exciting and challenging career. Please ring Marilyn 01-730 2123, 2124

## SECRETARIES IN EUROPE

If you have a language competence and would like to use it either temporarily or on a 1/2 year contract in one of the following locations: Paris, Brussels, Madrid or Frankfurt—please call Barbara Speck on 734 9186, or write with c.v. to COSSA International, Piccadilly House, 35 Regent St, London SW1.

## ENGLISH SECRETARIES LOVE BRUSSELS!

So might you! We have openings in Brussels for well-qualified Secretaries with English shorthand and at least one year's experience. Knowledge of French, or other languages would be an asset, but is not indispensable. If you would like more information please contact

'THAT AGENCY' 165 Kensington High St., W.8. 01-837 4336. Open till 7 on Thursday

SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS ALSO ON PAGES 14 AND 29

*Handwritten signature and notes at the bottom of the page.*







**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel

**PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY**

01-337 3311

**APPOINTMENTS**

01-278 9161

**PROPERTY ESTATE AGENTS**

01-278 9231

**PERSONAL TRADE**

01-278 9351

**MANCHESTER OFFICE**

061-334 1234

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel:

Classified Queries Dept

01-337 1234, ext 7180

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Ltd, copies of which are available on request.

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Animals and Birds          | 31        |
| Contracts and Tenders      | 31        |
| Domestic and Catering      | 26        |
| Education                  | 26        |
| Entertainment              | 10 and 31 |
| For Sale                   | 31        |
| La Crème de la Crème       | 31        |
| Legal Notices              | 31        |
| Motor Cars                 | 31        |
| Property                   | 26        |
| Public Notices             | 31        |
| Real Estate                | 31        |
| Services and Miscellaneous | 31        |
| Secretary Appointments     | 31        |
| Wanted                     | 31        |
- Box No replies should be addressed to the Times
- New Printing House Square
- London WC1X 9EX

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR ID.** We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Department immediately by telephoning 01-337 1234 (Ext 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

Have you not one father-in-law who has not created you?

March 21, 10.

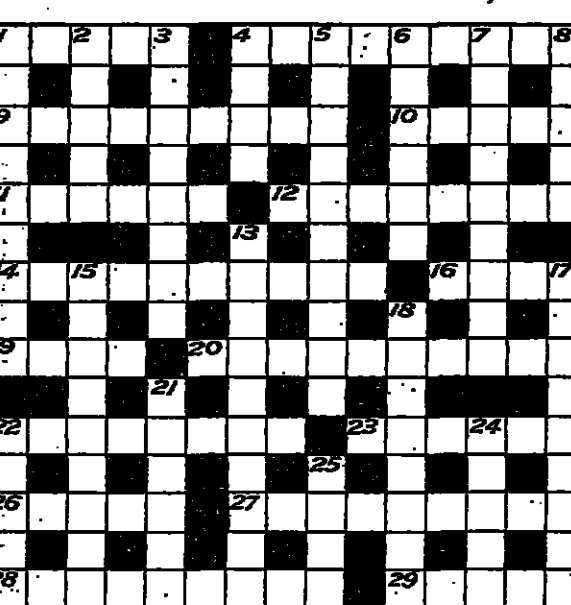
**BIRTHS**

**BARBER.** On April 10, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son (James), brother for Robert.

**DEATHS**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Management and Personnel of  
**S. A. SIPEP N.V. and ASSOCIATED COMPANIES**  
regret to announce the death of their chairman  
**CHARLES VICTOR BARON BRACHT**  
Born in Bloemendaal, Netherlands, on January 7, 1915, and assassinated in Antwerp on March 7, 1978.  
The funeral took place privately  
Lange Nieuwstraat, 45  
2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

**The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,872**



- ACROSS**
- 1 Gives a pledge in wine to Sover leader (5).
  - 4 Drive back fast? Disgusting (1).
  - 9 Make regular sailormen confused (9).
  - 10 It was in the payment to the church (5).
  - 11 Divisions remaining in the Civil Service (6).
  - 12 Like a scheme to produce Highland cloth by the river? (4-1).
  - 14 Does it show the way to handle mail? (10).
  - 16 Record of opening discussion (14).
  - 17 Old savings have point with a Scots lawyer (4).
  - 20 Stars tower Lisbon apart (6).
  - 21 Foul follower (4, 4).
  - 23 No hesitant leader writer (6).
  - 26 Find a bed in Paris in the dark (5).
  - 27 High-level defence systems (8, 6).
  - 28 Manuscript map with trench wrongly shown (9).
  - 29 Put clothes on line up straight (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Are they used by police in worker strikes? (9).
  - 2 It made the Lady of Shalott sadder than secure (5).
  - 3 The way rainwater went ahead was alarming (8).
  - 4 Bird's fence perch? (4).
  - 5 Claim 50 per cent return in retirement pay (10).
  - 6 Reliefs allowed on rises (3-3).
  - 7 Extension added after unsatisfactory drawing (5).
  - 8 Somewhat inept rendering of movement (5).
  - 13 Be grateful for increase in value (10).
  - 15 One taking over the hands-on, following FDR? (3, 6).
  - 17 Changing agents - but they're untravellers (9).
  - 18 It is to be trusted for a space traveller (8).
  - 21 Brief account of Spithhead vessel (6).
  - 22 Downy type shows spirit in miniature transposition (5).
  - 24 Hide the money - that's sound (5).
  - 25 Determination to cause trouble in the works (4, 4).
- Solution of Puzzle No 14,871**
- ACROSS**
1. BARGAIN
  2. INVERSION
  3. STONE
  4. CLOTH
  5. RIVER
  6. HIGHLAND
  7. CLOTH
  8. RIVER
  9. CLOTH
  10. HIGHLAND
  11. CLOTH
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  22. HIGHLAND
  23. CLOTH
  24. RIVER
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  26. HIGHLAND
  27. CLOTH
  28. RIVER
  29. CLOTH
- DOWN**
1. BARGAIN
  2. INVERSION
  3. STONE
  4. CLOTH
  5. RIVER
  6. HIGHLAND
  7. CLOTH
  8. RIVER
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  24. RIVER
  25. CLOTH
  26. HIGHLAND
  27. CLOTH
  28. RIVER
  29. CLOTH

**BIRTHS**

**BARTY-KING.** On April 10th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son (James), brother for Robert.

**DEATHS**

**LAW.** On April 10th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son (James), brother for Robert.

**MARRIAGES**

**EVANS.** On April 7th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son (James), brother for Robert.

**DEATHS**

**ALLEN.** On April 10th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London, a son (James), brother for Robert.

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**PERSONAL COLUMNS**

ALSO ON PAGE 31

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IS YOUR HOUSE TOO LARGE?**

Your house can be beautifully altered to suit your needs. We offer a wide range of services to help you achieve the perfect home.

**Gala Charity Performance of ANNIE**

Sponsored by the Charity of the same name. Tickets available from the organisers.

**PREFER TO WORK LOCALLY**

And avoid West End commuting. See our list of local vacancies.

**BRUNTON** formerly HOWELL, the late Mrs. Brunton, died on April 10th, at St. Mary's Hospital, London.

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**UK HOLIDAYS**

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**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**

**BARRADOS WITH THOMSON**

Thomson offer you the holiday of a lifetime in the Caribbean.

**BARRADOS WITH THOMSON**

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**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**

**ESCAPE TO THE SUN**

We offer you the holiday of a lifetime in the Caribbean.

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**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**

**IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!!**

Holidays are being booked up fast - Don't miss your chance.

**IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!!**

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